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Lucas Carr pushes Matt Brown over finish line of the Boston Marathon, Monday, April 20, 2015, in Boston. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

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US warship heads to Yemeni waters; could block Iran weapons

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Navy aircraft carrier, USS Theodore Roosevelt is steaming toward the waters off the country to beef up security and join other American ships that are prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the Houthi rebels.

The deployment comes after a U.N. Security Council resolution approved last week imposed an arms embargo on the leaders of the Iranian-backed Shiite Houthi rebels. The resolution passed in a 14-0 vote with Russia abstaining.

Navy officials said Monday that the Roosevelt was moving through the Arabian Sea. A massive ship that carries F/A-18 fighter jets, the Roosevelt is seen more of a deterrent and show of force in the region.

The Navy has been beefing up its presence in the Gulf of Aden and the southern Arabian Sea in response to reports that a convoy of about eight Iranian ships is heading toward Yemen



Sailors man the rails as the USS Theodore Roosevelt is maneuvered into its berth at the Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Va. U.S. Navy officials say the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is steaming toward the waters off Yemen and will join other American ships prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the rebels fighting in Yemen. (AP Photo/Steve Helber)

and possibly carrying arms for the Houthis. Navy officials said there are about nine U.S. warships in the region, including cruisers and destroyers carrying teams that can board and search other vessels. Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, has been pushed to the brink of col-

lapse by ground fighting and the Saudi-led airstrikes in support of current President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who was forced to flee to Saudi Arabia. Observers say the fighting in the strategic Mideast nation is taking on the appearance of a proxy war between Iran, the Shiite

powerhouse backing the Houthis, and Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ship movement on the record. Saudi Arabia and several of its allies, mainly Gulf Arab countries, have

been trying to drive back the rebels, who seized the capital of Sanaa in September and have overrun many other northern provinces with the help of security forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The U.S. supports the Saudi campaign.

Western governments and Sunni Arab countries say the Houthis get their arms from Iran. Tehran and the rebels deny that, although the Islamic Republic has provided political and humanitarian support to the Shiite group.

The U.S. has been providing logistical and intelligence support to the Saudi coalition launching airstrikes against the Houthis. That air campaign is now in its fourth week, and the U.S. has also begun refueling coalition aircraft involved in the conflict.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest would not comment specifically on any Navy movements in Yemeni waters, but said the U.S. has concerns about Iran's "continued support for the Houthis."



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Baltimore on edge after arrestee's fatal spine injury

JULIET LINDERMAN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore's top police officials, mayor and prosecutor sought to calm a "community on edge" Monday while investigating how a man suffered a fatal spine injury while under arrest. Six officers have been suspended, but investigators say they still don't know how it happened.

A week after the arrest of Freddie Gray, police said still don't have any videos or other evidence explaining what happened to cause the "medical emergency" that an arresting officer said Gray suffered while being taken to the local police station, Deputy Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez said.

Gray was black; the race of the officers involved has not been disclosed. His death came amid a national debate about the deaths of black men at the hands of police.

Autopsy results returned Monday show that Gray "did suffer a significant spinal injury that led to his



Citizens and groups such as the Justice League of NYC protest following the death of Freddie Gray, in Baltimore. Gray, 25, of Baltimore, died Sunday at a hospital, a week after he was hurt following an arrest.

(Algerina Perna/The Baltimore Sun via AP)

death," Rodriguez said. "What we don't know is how he suffered that injury."

The Gray family's lawyer, Billy Murphy, had said that Gray's "spine was 80 percent severed at his neck." Autopsy results returned Monday show that Gray

"did suffer a significant spinal injury that led to his death," Rodriguez said. "What we don't know is how he suffered that injury."

Police also released a more detailed timeline of how Gray was arrested and transported on April 12. It

revealed that Gray was placed in leg irons after an officer felt he was becoming "irate," and that the van stopped on its way to the police station, even picking up another prisoner in an unrelated case, while Gray repeatedly asked for medical attention.

"We are not in the business of hiding facts," Rodriguez said.

Something must have happened between the time Gray was videotaped by a bystander being dragged into the van, and the time he arrived at the station in deep distress, the deputy commissioner said.

"When Mr. Gray was put in that van, he could talk, he was upset. And he was taken out of that van, he could not talk and he could not breathe," Rodriguez said.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she too is "angry that we are here again" after trying to overcome decades of distrust between the black community and police in Baltimore's inner city.

Police Commissioner Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said he is ordering that police review and rewrite "effective immediately" its policies on moving prisoners and providing them with medical attention.

"We are a community on edge right now. We hear, I hear, the outrage. I hear the concern and I hear the fear," Batts said, asking for calm.

"We are on edge as a city, and I need your help to make sure we get this out in the proper way."

Officer Garrett Miller's official request for a criminal charge against Gray, a 25-year-old black man who was only 5-foot-8 inches (1.72 meters) tall and 145 pounds (66 kilograms), said that he had been arrested "without force or incident." Miller sought a charge of carrying a switchblade, punishable by a year in prison and a \$500 fine, according to court records obtained Monday by The Associated Press. □

St. Louis board votes to create police oversight panel

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis will create a civilian oversight board to review complaints against police, lawmakers decided Monday, though it will have limited powers. The often contentious relationship between police and the black community in St. Louis and its suburbs came to the forefront after August's fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was black and unarmed, by a white police officer in Ferguson.

St. Louis police have fatally shot four people in the

eight months since Brown was killed.

The seven-person St. Louis Civilian Oversight Board will make recommendations but cannot discipline officers. It will review evidence and witness statements from police internal affairs investigations, then report its findings to the public safety director and police chief.

The St. Louis board will have oversight in the city only, not in Ferguson or any other suburb. Civilian police oversight boards exist in more than 100 U.S. cities, according to the National Association

for Civilian Oversight of Police.

Some lawmakers said it wasn't enough, especially because the oversight board will lack subpoena power. But Alderman Antonio French, one of several bill sponsors, said that while it isn't perfect, it's a start.

"This hopefully will be one step toward re-establishing trust of police in the community," French said.

John Chasnoff of the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression called the bill "a major step forward," but said time will tell if it leads to better relations.

Mayor Francis Slay will sign the bill into law on May 5, and said the measure "will enhance trust between police officers and the community, be fair to police and protect their rights, ensure that civilians have a role in our police department, and increase transparency."

The St. Louis Police Officers Association did not want such a board to be created. President Joe Steiger said the association does not oppose civilian oversight, but that the measure is flawed and ultimately will lead to a court review. □



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Campaigning Hillary Clinton says economy has 'stalled out'

LISA LERER

Associated Press

KEENE, New Hampshire (AP)

— Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton offered a dark assessment of a "stalled out" U.S. economy Monday, a judgment at odds with President Barack Obama's brighter view of what the U.S. has achieved on his watch.

Clinton toured a wood furniture factory in Keene in her first visit to the early voting state of New Hampshire since she launched her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

As in Iowa last week, Clinton was highlighting the struggles of "everyday Americans," even if her remarks undercut the message of fellow Democrat Obama. Clinton said she came from a small-business family and the country must do more to help entrepreneurs. "It's not enough just to tread water," she said.

On a separate topic, she dismissed swirling questions about her family foundation as "distractions and

attacks." She was asked about allegations in a coming book that foreign governments that made donations to the Clinton family charity received favorable treatment from the State Department while she served in the Obama administration.

"I'm ready for that," she told reporters. "I know that that comes, unfortunately, with the territory."

Clinton was asked about Peter Schweizer's book, "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich." The book argues that Hillary and Bill Clinton got speaking fees and donations in return for favors to various foreign interests doled out by Clinton's government office.

In response, Clinton said Republican presidential candidates should "get onto the issues" rather than "talking only about me."

As in Iowa, Clinton is forging the packed rallies that marked her 2008 presidential campaign and focus-



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with Whitney Brothers employees during tour with company president, Dave Stabler, right, Monday, April 20, 2015, in Keene, N.H. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

ing on smaller roundtable events with supporters. She again traveled from her New York home in a van nicknamed Scooby, though not nearly as far as the Iowa trip.

She arrived in the pouring rain Monday for a stop at a bakery in the liberal enclave of Keene, where

she signed "I love you" to a deaf server while visiting patrons.

Later she visited employees of Whitney Brothers Inc., a furniture maker, and she will appear at a roundtable event on Tuesday with students and teachers at New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord.

Clinton, who lost the 2008 Democratic nomination to Obama, came to New Hampshire this time as the party's leading candidate and so far faces little opposition. Nevertheless, her campaign is determined to show early-state voters that she is taking nothing for granted. □

Koch brothers signal 2016 support for Gov. Scott Walker

N. CONFESSORE

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NEW YORK -Charles G. and David H. Koch, the influential and big-spending conservative donors, have a favorite in the race for the 2016 Republican nomination: Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. On Monday, at a fundraising event in Manhattan for the New York State Republican Party, David Koch told donors that he and his brother, who oversee one of the

biggest private political organizations in the country, believed that Walker was the Republican Party's best hope for recapturing the White House.

"We will support whoever the candidate is," said Koch, according to two people who attended the event. "But it should be Scott Walker." The remark - made before dozens of top New York donors who had gathered to hear Walker speak at the Union

League Club - could effectively end one of the most closely watched contests in the "invisible primary," a period where candidates crisscross the country seeking not the support of voters but the blessing of their party's biggest donors and fundraisers. Most of the leading Republican candidates have aggressively courted the Kochs, who control a network of political nonprofits, super PACs and hundreds of like-mind-

ed donors, all of which are planning to spend almost \$900 million over the next two years advancing conservative candidates and policies. But while the Kochs are influential among their peers, it is unclear whether they will favor Walker with more than good will.

In his remarks, made after Walker had addressed the group, Koch suggested that the political organizations they oversee - which include Americans for Pros-

perity, a grass-roots organization, and Freedom Partners, a donor trade group with an affiliated super PAC - would not intervene in the Republican primary process on behalf of a single candidate.

But according to the two attendees, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to freely describe the remarks, Koch indicated the Koch family might personally offer financial support to Walker. □

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Six from US charged with trying to join Islamic State

AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP)

— Six Minnesota men have been charged with terrorism in a criminal complaint unsealed Monday, the latest Westerners accused of traveling or attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group.

The six, whom authorities described as friends who met secretly to plan their travels, are accused of conspiracy to provide material support and attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

The complaint says the men planned to reach Syria by flying to nearby countries from Minneapolis, San Diego or New York City, and lied to federal investigators

when they were stopped. Charged are brothers Mohamed Abdihamid Farah, 21, and Adnan Abdihamid Farah, 19; Abdurahman Yasin Daud, 21; Zacharia Yusuf Abdurahman, 19; Hanad Mustafe Musse, 19; and Guled Ali Omar, 20. All are Somali-Americans, authorities said.

These were focused men who were intent on joining a terrorist organization," Minnesota U.S. Attorney Andy Luger said at a news conference Monday.

The six were arrested Sunday in Minneapolis and San Diego and are scheduled to make initial appearances in federal court on Monday.

They are the latest people from Minnesota to be charged in an investigation

stretching back months into the recruitment of Westerners by IS.

Authorities said earlier that a handful of Minnesota residents have traveled to Syria to fight with militants in the past year, and at least one has died.

The Minneapolis area is home to the largest concentration of Somali immigrants in the U.S. Since 2007, more than 22 young Somali men have also traveled from Minnesota to Somalia to join the militant group al-Shabab.

Omar's older brother, Ahmed Ali Omar, was among those who joined al-Shabab, leaving Minnesota in December 2007, according to the complaint. Ahmed Omar remains a fugitive.



United States Attorney Andrew Luger, right, and FBI special agent Richard Thornton explain the criminal complaint charging six Minnesota men with terrorism at a news conference in Minneapolis, Monday April 20, 2015.

(AP Photo/Andy Clayton-King)

It also said when agents went to the younger Omar's house after he was stopped in San Diego in November, another brother, Mohamed Ali Omar, threatened them. Three of those charged in

the newest complaint — Mohamed Farah, Abdurahman and Musse — were stopped at a New York City airport in November along with 19-year-old Hamza Ahmed, but they were not charged until now. □

New York man who plotted to join terror group gets 25 years

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press

CENTRAL ISLIP, New York (AP)

— A suburban New York man who was thwarted in his attempt to fly to Yemen to join a Middle Eastern terrorist group and then admitted continuing to plot with others to assist them was sentenced Monday to 25 years in prison. Marcos Alonso Zea, 26, pleaded guilty in September to attempting to provide material support to al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, also known as Ansar al-Sharia, and obstruction of justice.

Federal prosecutors said the man flew to London on his way to Yemen in January 2012. He was rejected by customs officials in London and returned to the

United States. Once home, prosecutors say, Zea continued participating in the conspiracy. He was arrested in October 2013.

U.S. District Court Judge Sandra Feuerstein rejected an appeal for lenience from Zea's attorney, Marc Bogatin, who argued that despite the guilty plea, his client had not actually committed any violent acts that would require him to receive the maximum penalty. Had he gone to trial, Zea could have faced up to life in prison. Bogatin suggested that Zea be sentenced to about 10 years in prison.

Feuerstein appeared dubious at that contention, noting that Zea admitted wanting to assist the terror group. □

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US Financial Front:

American businesses expect sales rebound, more hiring

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. businesses expect their sales will rebound in the next three months after a sluggish first quarter, and they also plan to boost hiring and pay, according to a survey released Monday. Just 49 percent of firms said their sales increased in the first three months of the year from last year's fourth quarter. That's down from 54 percent that reported higher sales in the last survey, in January.

Yet companies are much more bullish about the April through June quarter. Nearly three-quarters of companies forecast higher sales over the next three months, up from 68 percent in January and just 54 percent in October.

The results suggest that weak growth in the first three months of the year may prove temporary. Harsh winter weather, labor disputes at West Coast ports that slowed shipping and a jump in the value of the dollar likely held economic growth to a 1 percent annual pace, or below, from January through March. Yet most economists expect growth to accelerate in the second quarter.

"Growth in the first quarter appears to be an outlier within the broader economic outlook," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo.

Silvia is also president of the National Association for Business Economics, which conducted the survey covering 77 companies in the second half of March. The companies surveyed represent a broad cross-section of industries — including manufacturing, construction, finance, hotels and restaurants —

with nearly half having more than 1,000 employees and a quarter having fewer than 10.

Another sign of confidence in the economic outlook: The percentage of firms that said they raised pay in the January-March quarter soared to 45 percent, up from 31 percent in January and 35 percent a year earlier.

And 46 percent plan to boost pay in the second quarter, a sign that the weakness in the first quarter hasn't caused them to cut back on salaries. Still, the finding clashes with government measures of pay, which show that average hourly earnings have risen just 2.1 percent in the past 12 months. That's the same sluggish pace that has persisted since the recession ended in 2009.

There is little sign of a hiring pullback either. Just over a third of firms said they added workers in the first quarter, similar to the percentage that did so in the previous four quarters. And 41 percent expect to hire more staff in the April-June quarter, up modestly from 36 percent in January.

The survey did find some weak spots. Companies were much less likely to step up spending on computers, industrial machinery, and communications gear in the first quarter. Just 38 percent did so, down from 51 percent in January and the weakest showing in a year.

And the dollar's rise in value has harmed some companies. The dollar is up about 28 percent against the euro in the past six months and 18 percent compared with Japan's yen. That makes U.S. exports to Europe and Japan more expensive, and also makes profits



Ed Fotta sorts hardwood at the Allegheny Millwork and Lumberyard in Pittsburgh. U.S. businesses expect their sales will rebound in the next three months after a sluggish first quarter, and they also plan to boost hiring and pay, according to a survey released Monday, April 20, 2015.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

earned from U.S. companies' overseas operations worth less when translated

into dollars.

Thirty percent of member companies said the stron-

ger dollar has hurt their business, while 62 percent said it had no effect. □




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Labor group seeks rehiring of workers at 5 Wal-Mart stores

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A union

is asking labor regulators to go to court to force Wal-Mart to rehire all 2,200 employees affected by the abrupt temporary closing of five stores a week ago.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union filed the charge with the National Labor Relations Board on Monday, arguing the closings were retaliation for labor activism. Wal-Mart says it closed the stores to fix plumbing issues.

One affected store, in Pico Rivera, California, has been a hotbed for worker protests against Wal-Mart. It was the first store to wage such protests, in October 2012. The other stores are in Midland and Livingston, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Brandon, Florida.

The food and commercial workers union made its filing on behalf of OUR Wal-Mart, a group of Wal-Mart employees that it backs that



Jonathan Crawl Sr., a Wal-Mart employee in Virginia, stands with his son Jonathan Crawl Jr., 5, while speaking to rally participants in front of a McDonalds in New York. A union is asking labor regulators to go to court to force Wal-Mart to rehire all 2,200 employees affected by the abrupt temporary closing of five stores a week ago.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

has pushed for better pay and working conditions.

"This is a new low, even for Wal-Mart," Venanzi Luna, an eight-year Wal-Mart worker and member of OUR Walmart, said in a statement. "Through OUR Wal-Mart, we're going to keep fighting back until the company gives us our jobs back."

Wal-Mart said in a statement that it does not believe there is any basis for an injunction.

"As we have said all along, these stores were closed temporarily so we could fix the ongoing plumbing issues and it would be unfortunate if this outside group attempts to slow this process down for our asso-

ciates and customers," the company said.

The stores will remain shuttered for up to six months, Wal-Mart spokesman Lorenzo Lopez said. The company has said that the workers would be put on paid leave for two months and it would look to transfer some to nearby stores. Lopez did acknowledge that it was atypical for Wal-Mart to temporarily close stores for plumbing issues but said the company wanted to improve the customer experience.

"We understand this decision has been difficult on our associates and our customers and we aim to re-open these stores as soon as these issues are resolved and improvements are made," Wal-Mart said in a statement.

Lopez noted that the stores have had between 100 and 140 service calls for plumbing issues, the highest incidence of plumbing issues in its 4,500 stores.

Wal-Mart emailed to The

Associated Press excerpts from documents that highlighted issues at the Pico Rivera store that included incidents of leaky toilets and water flowing to the back room and onto the sales floor under egg coolers. It also cited clogged floor drains in the deli. Those incidents, said Lopez, were part of the reason why the Pico Rivera deli was downgraded by the Health Department to a "B" rating, causing a temporary closing of the department.

He also said the retailer would look to make other updates to the stores. Lopez said the company has not filed any local construction permits because it still is assessing what needs to be done.

The worker group wants the labor board to seek a court injunction, which can be quicker than typical NLRB proceedings, the group said.

Wal-Mart has gotten itself in trouble for similar actions. In June 2014, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that Wal-Mart had violated labor laws when it closed a store in Quebec. The employees in that location had voted to join a union.

That made it the first unionized store in North America just before the store was closed.

Wal-Mart has been making moves to increase pay for its workers. The company announced in February that it was increasing the minimum wage it pays its hourly workers to at least \$9 this month and to at least \$10 in February 2016. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. □

Trucking group urges movement on speed limiters

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The nation's largest trucking industry group wants the government to get moving on a rule requiring electronic speed-limiting devices on big rigs.

The American Trucking Associations says it opposes speed limits over 65 mph, and it has previously petitioned the government to require speed-limiting devices on trucks. Federal highway safety regulators proposed a regulation in 2011 to require the use of

the devices, known as governors. But the measure has been stalled for years in a morass of cost analyses and government reviews. The statement follows a story by The Associated Press last month revealing that most big truck tires aren't designed to go over 75 mph. Yet 14 states mainly west of the Mississippi River have speed limits of 75 or above. Texas, Wyoming, Utah and South Dakota have limits of 80 or higher. The association said Monday that wants speed limits reduced for all vehicles

and said the recent trend toward higher state speed limits is "needlessly endangering millions of motorists." Transportation Department documents show the rule has been stalled in Secretary Anthony Foxx's office since August.

Messages were left seeking comment from a department spokesman.

About 70 percent of trucking companies already have speed limiters on their rigs, and association spokesman Sean McNally said the rule would stop the rest from putting other driv-

ers in danger. The association, he said, believes that government regulations aren't always "inherently evil." He conceded that a uniform speed would level the playing field for all truckers, but said that was only a secondary reason for the proposal.

Many tractor-trailers on the nation's roads are driven faster than the 75 mph their tires are designed to handle, a practice that has been linked to wrecks and blowouts but has largely escaped the attention of highway officials. □

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Bombs shatter houses in Yemen capital, hit near Iran Embassy



Saudi soldiers fire artillery toward three armed vehicles approaching the Saudi border with Yemen in Jazan, Saudi Arabia, Monday, April 20, 2015. The Saudi air campaign in Yemen is now in its fourth week. (AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Saudi-led airstrikes hit weapons caches held by Iran-backed Shiite rebels, touching off massive explosions Monday in Yemen's capital that killed at least 19 people and buried scores of others under the rubble of flattened homes. The U.S. Navy, meanwhile, has dispatched the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt toward the waters off Yemen to join other American ships prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels

carrying weapons to the rebels, U.S. officials said. After the coalition airstrikes, mushroom clouds rose over the mountainous outskirts of Sanaa, where the arms depots are located. The Fag Atan area has been targeted several times since March 26, the start of the air campaign against the rebels known as Houthis. "It was like the doors of hell opened all of a sudden," said Mohammed Sarhan, whose home is less than 2 kilometers (1 mile) from the site. "I felt the house lift up

and fall." The blasts — among the most powerful in Sanaa since the airstrikes began — deposited a layer of soot on the top floors of buildings in the Yemeni capital and left streets littered with glass. Anti-aircraft fire rattled in response. One bomb hit near the Iranian Embassy in Sanaa, drawing a sharp rebuke from Tehran. Saudi Arabia and several of its allies, mainly Gulf Arab countries, have been trying to drive back the rebels, who seized Sanaa

in September and have overrun many other northern provinces with the help of security forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The U.S. supports the Saudi campaign. Western governments and Sunni Arab countries say the Houthis get their arms from Iran. Tehran and the rebels deny that, although the Islamic Republic has provided political and humanitarian support to the Shiite group. The Houthis and Saleh's troops have also advanced on the southern port of Aden, Yemen's main sea hub, forcing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the impoverished but strategic country last month. The Houthis and their allies have been trying to take over Aden

for weeks. The announcement that the USS Theodore Roosevelt is heading for the region comes amid reports that a convoy of Iranian ships may be headed toward Yemen to arm the Houthis. There are about nine U.S. ships in the region, including cruisers and destroyers carrying teams that can board and search other vessels. The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ship movement on the record. The carrier's deployment follows last week's approval of a U.N. Security Council resolution that imposed an arms embargo on the Houthis. The resolution passed in a 14-0 vote with Russia abstaining. □

Russia:

Leader of al-Qaida-linked group killed

ARSEN MOLLAYEV
Associated Press

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP) — Russian special forces have killed the leader of an al-Qaida-linked group operating in the Caucasus region of southern Russia, the national counterterrorism agency said Monday. Aliaskhab Kebekov took over the leadership of the Caucasus Emirate last year

after the death of its founder, Doku Umarov, who had claimed responsibility for major attacks in Russia. Kebekov pledged allegiance to al-Qaida and last month was added to a U.S. government list of global terrorists. The Caucasus Emirate is a loose alliance of rebel groups seeking to create an independent Islamic

state in the North Caucasus, a predominantly Muslim region that includes Chechnya and Dagestan. Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee, or NAK, announced Monday that special forces killed Kebekov and two other suspected militants after trapping them inside a private home in Buinaksk, Dagestan, the day before. □

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Amid new migrant crises, Italian PM decries 'death voyages'

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Shaken by the feared drowning of hundreds of people in

instability in Libya that has given free rein to human traffickers.

Even as the search continued for victims of the

and a third boat that ran aground near Greece.

Decrying what he called an "escalation in these death voyages," Ital-

"We are facing an organized criminal activity that is making lots of money, but above all ruining many lives," Renzi said at a joint news conference with Malta's prime minister, Joseph Muscat. He compared their activity to that of slave traders of centuries past, "unscrupulous men who traded human lives." The European Union foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, said this weekend's appalling human toll — which, if verified, would be the deadliest migrant tragedy ever — had "finally" fully awakened the European Union to the evils of human trafficking.

The EU has been under increasing criticism for lagging in its response to the crisis, with two shipwrecks believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 migrants in the past week. Some 400 people are believed to have drowned in another capsizing on April 13.

Stopping the traffickers will be a key item on the agenda when EU leaders meet in an emergency summit Thursday in Brussels, along

with a proposal to double spending on sea patrols off Europe's southern border. The 10-point plan includes a proposal to take "civil-military" action modeled on previous operations in the Horn of Africa to combat Somali piracy.

Meanwhile, new details emerged about the weekend disaster, with Italian prosecutors saying hundreds of migrants were locked below deck unable to escape when the rickety boat capsized off the coast of Libya.

Speaking at a news conference in Catania, Sicily, prosecutor Giovanni Salvi said "a few hundred were forced into the hold and they were locked in and prevented from coming out." He said hundreds more were locked on a second level of the boat, which also had hundreds of migrants squeezed into its upper deck.

Salvi said the migrants rushed to one side of the boat as they saw a Portuguese-flagged container vessel approach, with the promise of rescue contributing to the disaster. □



A man rescues a migrant from the Aegean sea, in the eastern island of Rhodes, Monday, April 20, 2015. Greek authorities said that at least three people have died, including a child, after a wooden boat carrying tens of migrants ran aground off the island of Rhodes.

(Argiris Mantikos/Eurokinissi via AP)

the latest Mediterranean tragedy, European leaders struggled Monday for an adequate response in the face of unremitting migrant flows and continued

weekend disaster that left as many as 950 people feared dead, coast guard ships rushed to respond to new distress calls on the high seas — two off Libya

ian Premier Matteo Renzi urged Europe to put the focus on preventing more boats from leaving Libya, the source of 90 percent of migrant traffic to Italy.

Spain: Student armed with crossbow, machete kills teacher

CIARAN
HERNAN MUNOZ
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A 13-year-old Spanish boy armed with a crossbow and a machete killed a substitute teacher and wounded four other people at his school in Barcelona on Monday, police said.

The unidentified boy was detained by police as a suspect in the attack that also saw two other teachers and two students injured. Authorities said the boy, who was undergoing a psychiatric examina-

GILES

tion, will not face criminal charges because he is under the age of 14.

The attack, which took place just after 9.30 a.m., sowed terror in the high school in a working class neighborhood of Spain's second-largest city.

"We were just starting the class and suddenly we heard screams," said student Gemma Jarque. "So we shut ourselves inside our classroom in order to be safe." A regional police spokeswoman said the boy had a crossbow and a machete. However, she was unable to say

which weapon caused the man's death. She spoke on condition of anonymity because of police regulations that prevent her from being identified by name. An autopsy was being performed to determine the teacher's cause of death. Results are not expected for several days.

Authorities did not disclose details of how the attack played out. But Jarque said she and others hid in her classroom after hearing the screams, and left along with other students only after a fire alarm sounded.

"We saw the teacher lying on the floor in a pool of blood," she said.

Another student, Paula Amayuelas, said she knew the suspect, who police did not identify because of his age. Amayuelas said the boy "didn't have problems but he was kind of a loner Other students would pick on him."

The two wounded students and one of the injured teachers were taken to Barcelona hospitals for treatment while the other injured teacher was treated at the scene and did not need hospitalization.

Parents and students gathered and hugged each other in stunned silence outside the school for students ages 12-16. The teacher killed was a substitute who had worked at the school for about a week, students said.

Though children below 14 are not held legally responsible for crimes and cannot be jailed or placed in juvenile detention centers, they can be sent to mental health institutions, said a spokesman for Spain's Justice Ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity because of ministry policy. □



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LATIN BRIEFS

Venezuela reports receiving \$5 billion loan from Chinese

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says China has given the socialist South American country a \$5 billion loan. It's unclear if the money is new financing or part of a deal announced earlier. Maduro said Sunday that Venezuela had received \$5 billion from China to fund development, and was seeking additional financing. China is Venezuela's largest creditor and has loaned it more than \$40 billion over the past five years, much of which has been paid back in the form of oil deliveries. Venezuela sells China more than 600,000 barrels of oil a day. Venezuela is struggling with the world's highest inflation, a recession and a cash crunch brought about partly by a steep fall in the price of oil, which makes up 95 percent of the country's export earnings. □

Colombia's rebels stick by cease-fire after deadly attack

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's largest rebel group says it's sticking to a unilateral cease-fire despite a deadly attack on soldiers last week by one of its own units. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia read a statement Monday from Havana at the end of the latest round of two-year-old peace talks. Guerrilla leader Ivan Marquez said the negotiations aimed at ending the half-century conflict must continue at all costs. He blames the government's failure to declare a truce for tragedies like the one last week, when rebels killed 11 members of an army platoon while they were sleeping. To outraged Colombians the attack seemed a clear violation of the unilateral cease-fire the rebels declared in December. □

Philippines, America start combat drills in Pacific

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— More than 11,500 American and Filipino military personnel launched one of their largest annual combat exercises Monday amid growing alarm over massive land reclamation by China in disputed South China Sea territories. Philippine military officials said the "Balikatan," or shoulder-to-shoulder, maneuvers, which involve more than 90 aircraft and ships, were not directed at China. But the venue of some of the war games in waters facing the disputed region and a focus on territorial defense appear to link the exercises to the long-simmering conflict. More than 120 Philippine and U.S. Marines will be deployed from an amphibious attack vessel Tuesday to simulate the re-taking of an island occupied by enemy forces in northwestern Zambales province, Filipino officials said. There will be live-fire and search and rescue drills as well as civic work in other areas.

China seized control of a shoal off Zambales after a standoff with Philippine ships three years ago. Incensed, the Philippines challenged the validity of China's vast territorial claims before an international arbitration tribunal in 2013, straining ties. Shortly before overseeing the start of the military exercises, Philippine military chief Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr. held a news conference to release surveillance photos showing Chinese reclamation of eight previously submerged reefs in the disputed Spratly Islands, saying Beijing's actions increase the risk of an accidental confrontation.



A Filipino activist raises a slogan during a rally in front of the U.S. embassy in Manila, Philippines on Monday, April 20, 2015. The group is protesting against a joint U.S.-Philippines military exercise dubbed "Balikatan 2015" where troops from both countries take part in an annual drill that focuses on regional security, terrorism, disaster preparedness and inter-operability. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

"We have compelling reasons to raise our voice to tell the whole world the adverse effects of China's aggressiveness that has created tensions not only among the coun-

tries who have overlapping claims in the area," Catapang said. Washington has expressed concern over China's actions. U.S. Sen. John McCain and three other top-

ranking senators overseeing U.S. defense and foreign policy have called for a comprehensive strategy to deal with China's territorial moves, including the massive reclamation, warning that American interests and those of its allies stand at considerable risk. Adm. Samuel Locklear, the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, warned last week that the artificial islands could serve as resupply bases for China's large fleet of maritime security vessels. China eventually could deploy missiles and radar on them, providing a platform for enforcing a possible air defense identification zone similar to one it declared over disputed Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea in 2013. □

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In Puerto Rico, a push to revive indigenous culture

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN LORENZO, Puerto Rico (AP) — In Puerto Rico's misty, bamboo-studded mountains, elementary school students are studying a nearly extinct language, beating on drums and growing native crops like cassava and sweet potato as they learn about the indigenous people who lived on the island before Christopher Columbus.

The children in four towns in the island's southeast corner play a ceremonial ball game that was called batey by the native Tainos, who were all but wiped out during colonial times. The boys and girls also learn words from the local Arawak language, which was in part rebuilt with help from linguists, and still exists in varying forms among other native groups in the hemisphere.

Now, a group of academics and educators hope to expand the Taino education program to other public schools around the U.S. territory in an effort to teach children this little known part of the territory's history.

"If you don't know your roots, you don't know your-

self," said anthropologist Carlalynne Yarey Melendez, director of the Taino cultural organization that runs the educational program. "There are so many communities and schools

partially Taino in the 2010 Census.

But even though that's just a little more than 1 percent, Puerto Rico's legislature is considering a proposal to declare Me-

time, "Just as they wrote us off the books, we will write ourselves back in," said Tai Pelli, a liaison officer for the New York-based United Confederation of Taino People. Melendez



Brayan Lopez, 9, plays a Taino wood drum while students perform a ceremonial dance in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. Brayan is a fourth grader and one of the designated caciques - or chieftains - because of his musical skills. He gets to blow a conch shell while other students gather around him and beat on the small, elongated wooden drums. (AP Photo/Danica Coto)

that want the classes, but I can't keep up with the demand."

Puerto Ricans' interest in the territory's indigenous past has grown in recent years, with 42,000 of the 3.7 million people then living on the island identifying themselves as at least

lendez's Naguake organization to be the island's first indigenous-based community. The designation would allow it to receive federal funds under a program that aids native groups, and expand the program to other towns. "As one of our elders said at one

has lobbied legislators to pass the proposed measure. She has also worked with U.S. researchers on several recent DNA studies sponsored by the National Geographic Society to explore the lineage of people living in certain regions of Puerto Rico. □

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Jamaica university plants first legal marijuana seedling

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaica's biggest university has held a ceremony to plant what it touts as the island's first legal marijuana seedling. Monday's symbolic planting at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies comes several days after drug law amendments took effect, partially decriminalizing small amounts of pot. Among other things, the amendments pave the way for a lawful medical marijuana and scientific research sector. Last year, the university signed an memorandum of understanding with the Colorado-based nonprofit Strains of Hope to help conduct research into marijuana. The government is working on creating a cannabis licensing authority to jumpstart a lawful medical marijuana industry. □

Small plane crash in east Dominican Republic kills 7

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)

— A small plane crashed shortly after takeoff Monday from a resort area on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, killing all seven people on board, officials said. The pilot of the single-engine Piper PA-32 had taken off from Punta Cana and was apparently attempting to make an emergency landing on a golf course when it crashed into a tree and burst into flames, said Enmanuel Souffront, director of the country's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. □

Brazil's Cardoso denounces impeachment talk

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has criticized calls from within his own opposition party for the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff, whose second term in office has been buffeted by a corruption scandal at the state-run oil giant.

Speaking at an event Sunday in the northeastern state of Bahia, Cardoso said impeachment mustn't be used as a tool by those who op-

pose Rousseff and dismissed talk of a possible impeachment as precipitated.

"You can't get ahead of yourself, can't turn the desire for another government into something outside the rules of democracy," Cardoso, who was president from January 1995 to January 2003, said at a news conference in Comandatuba.

Cardoso, whose Brazilian Social Democratic Party is the most popular opposition force, said politicians should

wait to see whether the police and judicial systems directly link Rousseff to the kickback scheme at Petrobras.

Rousseff was chairwoman of Petrobras' board during several years as the graft took place, but she hasn't been implicated in the scandal, which prosecutors say is the biggest yet uncovered in the country.

According to federal prosecutors, big construction and engineering firms paid

at least \$800 million in bribes and other funds in return for inflated contracts with Petrobras, which is Brazil's biggest company. Part of that money allegedly went to Rousseff's Workers Party and other parties for political campaigns.

In the highest-profile detention yet in the investigation, Workers' Party treasurer Joao Vaccari Neto was arrested last week and has been charged with corruption and money laundering. □



On Aruba:

Three Ways Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Leads The Way In Eco-Tourism

EAGLE BEACH - Every day is Earth Day at Aruba's premier adults-only resort, which continues to raise the bar in sustainability even after 25 years of leadership. Long before "going green" was in fashion, Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts was paving the way in eco-friendly practices. Today's travelers, especially millennials, are more conscious of the environment and actively seek out hotels that meet or exceed "green" standards. Bucuti has been at the forefront of the green movement in hospitality for the past 25 years and is forever committed to preserving Aruba's rich culture and environment by continually setting the bar higher with new practices.

Below are three reasons why Bucuti is considered an industry leader in sustainable travel:

Eco-Initiatives: Bucuti proactively takes steps to protect the environment: using solar panels to heat water, which is reused for garden irrigation; using motion-sensor-activated lighting

throughout the resort; and buying in bulk whenever possible. Rainwater is also collected and used for irrigation and all welcome signs for guests are recycled from boxes. Upon check in, guests are provided with water canteens to use throughout the resort, thereby eliminating the need to purchase plastic water bottles.

Bucuti also invites guests to take part in their monthly beach cleanup with employees to aid in preserving Eagle Beach. Participating guests receive a t-shirt to wear during the cleanup and are rewarded with a bottle of bubbles to enjoy after. As part of Bucuti's mission to provide guests with a total sense of wellness, the resort's beachfront restaurant, Elements, is Aruba's first and only restaurant that provides the opportunity to enjoy gluten-free, vegan, or natural and organic dining in the presence of breathtaking views. This past summer, the resort took the pledge to be a part of the Water Sense H2Otel Challenge, which is a U.S. Environmental Protection



Agency (EPA) partnership program designed to help save water for future generations. Bucuti is currently the only resort outside of North America that has taken the initiative at this time. For more information on Bucuti's eco initiatives, click here.

Industry Recognition: The resort has achieved 15 consecutive years of Green Globe Certification as well as the distinction of being the first hotel in the

Americas to earn the highly coveted ISO 14001 environmental certification every year since 2003. Additionally, Bucuti earned the Green Globe High Achievement Award and is currently working to obtain its fourth green certification, LEED. As the leader of the resort's Green Team, owner Ewald Biemans has led the resort to earning the global recognition of more than two dozen environmental awards and certifications, including the Highest Achievement Award as the top-performing sustainable travel and tourism business in the Caribbean by Green Globe and ISLANDS' top 100 worldwide sustainable organizations. He has been honored on numerous occasions both locally and internationally for his environmental preservation work, including the International Hotel & Restaurant Association's 2004 Environmental Award (worldwide) for "Innovation in Environmental Best Practices." Most recently, Biemans earned the title of "Green Hotelier of the Year" by Caribbean Journal's 2014 Caribbean

Travel Awards.

Community Leadership: Bucuti has been committed to playing an active role in the local community and taking leadership whenever possible, encouraging other resorts on-island to take initiative to protect Aruba's natural resources. From offering site tours to local students and hoteliers to speaking at conferences throughout the region, Biemans and his staff welcome the opportunity to educate others on sustainable practices. This past summer, Biemans led a session aptly named "Boutique Resorts: Innovations and Eco Certifications at The Caribbean Symposium for Innovators in Coastal Tourism" in Grenada.

As part of their commitment to conserving the beauty of Aruba's natural environment, the resort regularly donates to local charities including Aruba's Donkey Sanctuary. For more information or to book, call 888-4-BUCUTI or visit <http://www.bucuti.com/reserve-now>. □





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Sneden Family Honored at the Tropicana Resort and Casino

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. David and Mrs. Carol Sneden from Chelmsford, Mass. This lovely couple loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, the beaches, the restaurants, the Tropicana Casino, and because the



wonderful staff of the resort is like family to them. The certificates were presented at the recently renovated Tropicana Casino by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Nelida Rodriquez, Ms. Jacky Feliciano, Mr. Wilfred Trimon



Dir. Casino Operations and the Tropicana Resort and Mr. Richard Roy GM at Casino. □

Loyal Visitors Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of ladies whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the La Cabana Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mrs. Dawn Guiney from Centerville, Massachusetts, Mrs. Rene Mc Phail from Waitham, Massachusetts and Mrs. Sandra Parent from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Rene and Sandra have been friends since kindergarten and are responsible for bringing a big group



of tourists to Aruba who became members at the La Cabana. The honorees are loyal members of the La Cabana, and they love Aruba for the Friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and they al-

ways say that Aruba is truly One Happy Island. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Charine Charles representing the La Cabana Beach Resort. □

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Victorinox Presents Its ARUBA Limited Edition Classic SD Knife

ORANJESTAD – Victorinox launched its very special Aruba Limited Edition Classic SD knife from the Caribbean Collection featuring a vibrant tropical imprint. Victorinox is a knife manufacturer based in the town of Ibach, Switzerland, and is currently the sole supplier of multi-purpose knives to the Swiss army. This Aruba Limited Edition is the perfect companion for everyone featuring seven popular implements, stainless steel blades and Swiss Made precision. Not only does this knife make the perfect souvenir, but it brings back great memories each time its owner pulls out the handy tool. Get yours today to celebrate the upcoming national holidays, only available at Diamonds International. Visit Diamonds International downtown in front of the bus terminal now to get yours today. □



Ed and Billie Mitchell Honored at the Amsterdam Manor



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of

appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Ed and Mrs. Billie Mitchell from Pennsylvania. Ed and Billie are staying for 30 consecutive years at the Amsterdam Manor and they love Aruba very much for the climate, the beaches, and the restaurants, and because Aruba feels

like a second home and the people from the Amsterdam manor are like a family to them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with friends of the honorees and Ms. Joanne Dirksz and Mr. Jürgen van Shaijk, GM at the Amsterdam Manor. □

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Driver Matt Kenseth leads the field during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Bristol, Tenn.
Associated Press

Kenseth ends 51-race drought with win at rainy Bristol

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — After four rain delays and 11 extra laps, Matt Kenseth finally drove to victory lane. It took him nine hours to get there Sunday at a water-logged Bristol Motor Speedway.

Kenseth snapped a 51-race losing streak by holding off Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson on one final restart in NASCAR's determined effort to stage a complete race.

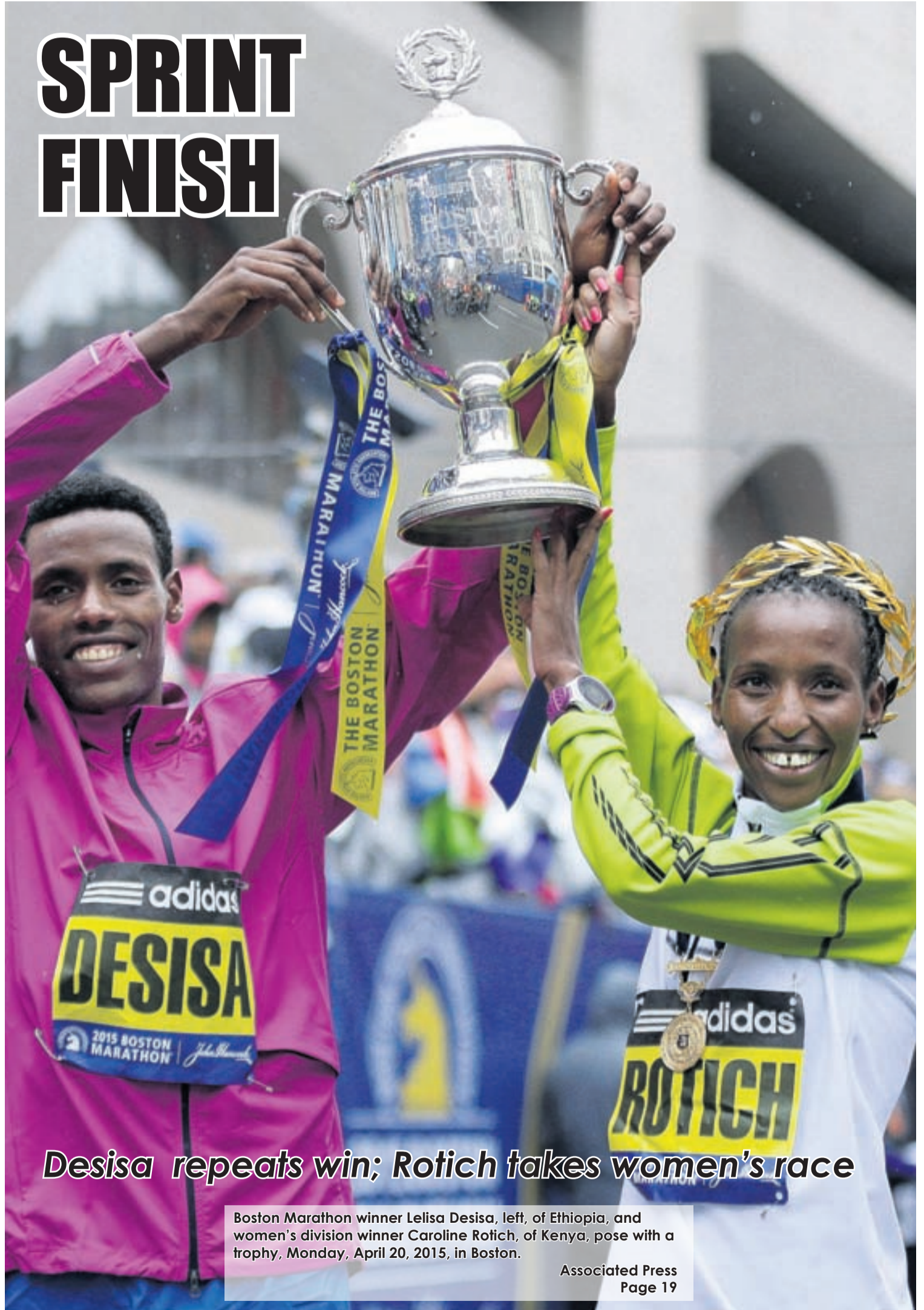
Kenseth, a seven-race winner in his 2013 debut season with Joe Gibbs Racing, was winless all last year.

"It feels good to be back here. Not winning for as long as we did ... it wears on you a little bit," Kenseth said. "We had such a good 2013, and last year there were some races we had some chances to win and just things wouldn't line up for us."

"We just couldn't get it to happen. (Bristol) was kind of the opposite. Everything worked out."

Continued on Page 22

SPRINT FINISH



Desisa repeats win; Rotich takes women's race

Boston Marathon winner Lelisa Desisa, left, of Ethiopia, and women's division winner Caroline Rotich, of Kenya, pose with a trophy, Monday, April 20, 2015, in Boston.

Associated Press
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NBA Playoffs

CP3, Griffin lead Clippers past Spurs in opener

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Paul scored 32 points, and Blake Griffin added 26 points and 12 rebounds, as Los Angeles surged in the second half to beat San Antonio in their first-round playoff series opener.

Jamal Crawford added 17 points for the Clippers, who met the defending NBA champions' challenge in a difficult postseason-opening matchup for two powers. Griffin threw down his usual array of roof-raising dunks, while Paul quarter-backed Los Angeles to an 18-point lead in the third quarter.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points for the Spurs, who had won the opening game in their previous 11 playoff series. Tim Duncan had 11 points and 11 rebounds, but the Spurs couldn't rally from their hefty second-half deficit. Game 2 is Wednesday night.

CAVALIERS 113, CELTICS 100

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored 30 points in his playoff debut and LeBron James added 20 in his first postseason game with Cleveland in five years as the Cavaliers opened a run toward an NBA title with a 113-100 victory over the Boston Celtics on Sunday.

Irving made five 3-pointers and Kevin Love, another postseason rookie, had 19

points and 12 rebounds.

It was Cleveland's first home playoff game since May 11, 2010, when the Celtics won Game 5 and James left the floor to some boos from Cavaliers fans. He departed for Miami two months later, but he's home now, all is forgiven and Cleveland is aiming to end a championship drought dating to 1964.

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points to lead the seventh-seeded Celtics. They will try to even the best-of-7 series in Game 2 on Tuesday night.

The Cavs built a 20-point lead in the third quarter, let the Celtics get as close as six and then finished the quarter with a 9-0 run — capped by a 3-pointer by James Jones — to take a 15-point lead. Boston climbed within 10, but Love made a crucial 3-pointer with 3:32 left to slow Boston.

HAWKS 99, NETS 92

ATLANTA (AP) — Kyle Korver scored 21 points, including five 3-pointers, as the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks held off the Brooklyn Nets 99-92 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Hawks led nearly the entire game and pushed the margin as high as 16 points, but the Nets kept coming back. Finally, Jeff Teague dropped in a float-er coming off the left wing,



Los Angeles Clippers Blake Griffin drives the lane against San Antonio Spurs Tim Duncan during the first half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles, Sunday, April 19, 2015.

Associated Press

giving Atlanta a 95-89 lead. Joe Johnson missed a 3-pointer from the corner for Brooklyn, and Teague made a pair of free throws with just under a minute remaining to essentially seal it.

Teague and DeMarre Carroll scored 17 points apiece.

Eighth-seeded Brooklyn finished 22 games behind the Hawks and slipped into the playoffs on the final day. But, with Johnson and

Brook Lopez each scoring 17 points, they didn't look overmatched by a team that won the season series 4-0 and earned a No. 1 seed for the first time since 1994.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Atlanta.

GRIZZLIES 100, TRAIL BLAZERS 86

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Reserve Beno Udrih scored 20 points and Memphis never trailed in routing Portland in Game 1 of the Western Conference first-round series.

Zach Randolph had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Marc Gasol added 15 points and 11 rebounds. Mike Conley finished with 16 points and didn't play the fourth quarter. Jeff Green had 11.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 32 points while taking more shots than anyone had ever taken against Memphis in the postseason, going 13 of 34. Damian Lillard added 14 points, shooting 5 of 21 overall and 0 of 6 beyond the arc. Nicolas Batum had 15 points. The Trail Blazers have lost five straight overall.

The Grizzlies swept Portland during the regular season and have won 10 of the last 11, including the first playoff game between the teams.

Game 2 is Wednesday night. □



In this Dec. 5, 2014, file photo, Tim Tebow speaks during an SEC television broadcast in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Eagles sign quarterback Tim Tebow to 1-year contract

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- The Philadelphia Eagles have signed quarterback Tim Tebow to a one-year contract, giving the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner his first shot in the NFL since the Patriots cut him before the 2013 season.

The team announced the deal Monday but did not disclose financial terms. Tebow hasn't played in the NFL since 2012 with the New York Jets. He worked as a television analyst last year with the SEC Network

and ESPN.

The 27-year-old player is still highly popular after leading Florida to two national titles and spending two seasons with the Denver Broncos. Many fans follow Tebow because of his strong Christian beliefs.

The Eagles already have four other quarterbacks on their roster: Sam Bradford, Mark Sanchez, Matt Barkley and G.J. Kinne.

Tebow worked out for the Eagles last month and Chip Kelly later said that he's al-

ways "been a fan of Tim."

Tebow had some success in Denver - including a playoff win over Pittsburgh in January 2012 - but struggled with accuracy. He was known for running the ball and improvising.

Kelly has had one of the busiest offseasons in the NFL, bringing in Tebow, Bradford and running back DeMarco Murray while trading away Nick Foles, LeSean McCoy and allowing Jeremy Maclin to leave in free agency. □

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Desisa wins 119th Boston Marathon; Rotich takes women's race



Caroline Rotich, of Kenya, breaks the tape to win the women's division of the Boston Marathon, Monday, April 20, 2015, in Boston. Associated Press

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Lelisa Desisa won his first Boston Marathon in 2013. He didn't have much time to celebrate.

A few hours after Desisa broke the tape on Boylston Street on Patriots' Day, two bombs near the finish line turned what should be the pinnacle of any distance runner's career into an afterthought.

Desisa earned his second Boston Marathon title Monday, finishing in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 17 seconds to claim a golden olive wreath, the \$150,000 first prize and a winner's medal to replace the one he donated to the city two years ago in memory of the victims.

And this one he plans to enjoy.

"This medal, I think, is for me," Desisa said.

Kenya's Caroline Rotich won the women's race, beating Mare Dibaba in a shoulder-to-shoulder sprint down Boylston Street to win by 4 seconds as the world's most prestigious marathon took a tentative step back toward normal.

Boston Athletic Association spokesman Jack Fleming

interrupted the winner's news conference to place the trophy on the table next to Desisa and 2014 winner Meb Keflezighi and thank them both for helping the race heal.

"In 2013, Lelisa had won and we were sitting in these same chairs. And then soon after, and unfortunately, Lelisa did not get to have the kind of victory celebration that a champion of the Boston Marathon should have," Fleming said. "Lelisa, we want you to get your due today."

Desisa was in the leading pack for the entire race, pulling away to beat countryman Yemane Adhane Tsegay by 31 seconds in the first 1-2 finish for Ethiopia in the race's history. Kenya's Wilson Chebet was third, another 34 seconds back.

Dathan Ritzenhein of Rockford, Michigan, was the first American, in seventh. Keflezighi finished eighth a year after his victory — the first for an American man since 1983 — gave the city a tangible symbol of its comeback.

"I was crying on Boylston Street, because it was bringing up memories, good and bad," said Ke-



Lelisa Desisa, of Ethiopia, crosses the finish line to win the Boston Marathon, Monday, April 20, 2015, in Boston. Associated Press

flezighi, who wrote the names of the bombing victims on his race bib last year. "People were cheering like crazy, saying 'U-S-A!' I was chanting with them."

The 2004 Olympic silver medalist, who will turn 40 next month, was among the leaders until the 35-kilometer mark, when he took a drink of water that went down the wrong way. He had to stop five times to vomit.

As it did last year, the crowd encouraged him to go on. A few hundred feet from the finish, he sprinted to catch up to one of the female stragglers, grabbing her hand and crossing alongside her.

"It was an amazing opportunity for us to finish together," Keflezighi said. "Hopefully, it will be a memorable experience for both of us."

Two years after the explosions, "Boston Strong" was still ubiquitous — on shirts and signs, written in chalk on the street and shouted by spectators. But the crowds along the 26.2-mile course from Hopkinton to Copley Square were smaller than in 2014, no doubt thinned by the mid-40s temperatures, stiff wind and rain that was expected to pick up in the afternoon.

With many of the runners wearing long sleeves and gloves to fight off the cold, American Desiree Linden led for much of the women's race. But Linden fell off the pace in the final miles as Rotich and a pair of Ethiopians pulled away. After Buzunesh Deba, last year's runner-up, fell behind at the final turn onto Boylston Street, Rotich and Dibaba ran together

for the final quarter-mile, switching places before Rotich kicked into the lead for her first Boston title.

"I got to the last corner and I saw the finish line tape and I thought, 'This is it, I'm not going to let it go,'" said Rotich, who also collected \$150,000 while giving Kenya its fifth straight women's champion. "I was like, 'No, not today.' And I kept going."

Rotich won in 2:24:55, with Deba in third. Linden finished fourth, and fellow U.S. Olympian Shalane Flanagan was ninth.

American Tatyana McFadden won her third straight women's wheelchair race, and Marcel Hug won his first men's title earlier Monday. Ernst Van Dyk, the most decorated Boston Marathon competitor in history, finished second in his attempt to win the race for an 11th time.

Security was visible but not intrusive for the second running since the bombings. State and local police, some riding bicycles and others on all-terrain vehicles, were supplemented by National Guard soldiers who walked alongside the road, applauding passing runners and occasionally reaching across the temporary fencing to high-five fans.

Officials were preparing for a crowd of 1 million spectators stretched along the route.

Like Desisa, they were also looking for something to celebrate.

"Last year was important to have a better ending than that day in 2013, and to support Boston," said Ramona Turner, who came from Winnipeg, Canada, to watch her husband run for the third year in a row. "This year, I'm here for the party." □

AL Capsules

Royals overcome 5 ejections to beat Athletics 4-2

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— The Royals overcame five ejections and won with Kendrys Morales' tiebreaking, two-run double off Eric O'Flaherty (0-1) in a three-run eighth inning.

Royals manager Ned Yost and pitching coach Dave Eiland were ejected in the first inning after Lorenzo Cain was hit by a Scott Kazmir pitch.

Kansas City reliever Kelvin Herrera was tossed in the eighth after throwing behind Brett Lawrie. Bench coach Don Wakamatsu, who was acting as manager after Yost's ejection, also ejected along with injured Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar.

Royals right-hander Yordano Ventura was ejected Saturday when he hit Lawrie with a pitch after Josh Reddick's homer.

Lawrie's hard slide into Escobar injured the left knee of the Kansas City shortstop on Friday and caused benches to clear. Escobar

called it a "dirty slide" and did not play Saturday.

Franklin Morales (1-0) threw two pitches, retiring Brett Lawrie on a popout. Wade Davis struck out two in a perfect ninth for his second save.

TIGERS 9, WHITE SOX 1

DETROIT (AP) — Yoenis Cespedes hit his first major league grand slam and had a two-run homer as Detroit improved to 10-2, the best start in the major leagues.

Shane Greene (3-0) allowed his first earned run of the season when an RBI triple by Jose Abreu skipped past right fielder J.D. Martinez. Greene gave up five hits and four walks in seven innings.

Cespedes is 6 for 8 with four homers against Jose Quintana (1-1), who allowed nine runs and 10 hits in four-plus innings.

YANKEES 5, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Chase Headley and Mark Teixeira drove in two runs each for New York, which completed a three-

game sweep.

Michael Pineda (2-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings to defeat Matt Andriese (0-1). After Ryan Brett doubled leading off the ninth for his first big league hitter, Andrew Miller struck out three straight batters for his fourth save.

New York (6-6) reached .500 for the first time since it was 1-1.

Steven Souza Jr. homered and drove in three runs for the Rays.

BRAVES 5, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Jonny Gomes hit a three-run double in the first inning off rookie Daniel Norris (1-1) and added a sacrifice fly as the Braves took two of three games from Toronto.

Shelby Miller (2-0) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings, raising his ERA from 0.90 to 1.69. Jason Grilli got three outs to remain perfect in six save chances.

ORIOLES 8, RED SOX 3

BOSTON (AP) — Adam Jones went 4 for 5 with a three-run double and two-run homer to match his ca-



Kansas City Royals' Jarrod Dyson (1) beats the throw to Oakland Athletics left fielder Mark Canha (20) during the third inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, April 19, 2015.

Associated Press

reer high with five RBIs.

Ryan Flaherty added a solo homer and Jimmy Paredes three singles for the Orioles, who won for the second straight day after losing the series opener.

Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer, and Miguel Gonzalez (2-1) allowed

three runs and five hits in five innings. Rick Porcello (1-2) gave up eight runs and 12 hits in five innings.

Boston's David Ortiz was ejected after third base umpire Jerry Meals called a swing on an attempted check swing. □

NL Capsules

Mets hold off Marlins 7-6 for 8th straight

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)

— Matt Harvey won his third straight start to begin his comeback season as the New York Mets, despite losing two important players to injuries, held off the Miami Marlins 7-6 Sunday for their eighth consecutive victory. Ruben Tejada had a three-run double and catcher Travis d'Arnaud singled twice in a seven-run fourth inning. But it was a costly win for the Mets, who lost d'Arnaud to a broken right hand and reliever Jerry Blevins to a fractured forearm.

After the Marlins trimmed a six-run deficit, Jeurys Familia retired Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton on grounders with a runner at second for his sixth save.

Already missing captain David Wright (hamstring) and right-hander Zack



New York Mets starting pitcher Matt Harvey celebrates with teammates in the dugout after pitching seven innings against the Miami Marlins in a baseball game at Citi Field on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in New York. Associated Press

Wheeler (elbow surgery), the Mets matched the best start in franchise history at 10-3 and won their first seven home games for the first time. Harvey (3-0) yielded four runs and eight hits in six-plus innings to beat Tom Koehler (1-2).

PIRATES 5, BREWERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gerrit Cole (2-0) improved to 9-1 in his last 10 decisions at PNC Park, and has won six straight decisions overall. He gave up two runs and struck out six in six innings.

Pedro Alvarez homered for the Pirates, and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for

his second save.

Milwaukee lost its fifth straight game and fell to 2-10, the poorest record in the majors and the worst start in franchise history. Matt Garza (1-2) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

NATIONALS 4, PHILLIES 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stephen Strasburg (1-1) won for the first time in three starts this season, allowing one run in 7 1-3 innings and cutting his ERA from 6.75 to 4.50.

Drew Storen worked the ninth for his fourth save. Washington took three of four from Philadelphia, which has lost seven of eight. David Buchanan (0-3) allowed three runs in five innings for Philadelphia, which has lost seven of its past eight.

PADRES 5, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Jon Les-

ter (0-2) gave up three runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings as San Diego downed Chicago.

Lester has a 6.89 ERA in his first three starts since signing a \$155 million, six-year contract. He also alertly tossed his glove — with the ball stuck in the webbing — to first baseman Anthony Rizzo for an out after fielding Clint Barmes' comebacker in the second. Will Middlebrooks and Yangervis Solarte hit two-run homers to help Andrew Cashner (1-2). Joaquin Benoit pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer off Tim Hudson (0-2) helping send the World Series champions to their ninth loss in 10 games. □

NHL Playoffs

Blackhawks beat Predators 4-2 for 2-1 series lead



Chicago Blackhawks left wing Brandon Saad, left, celebrates with right wing Marian Hossa after scoring a goal during the second period in Game 3 of an NHL Western Conference hockey playoff series against the Nashville Predators, Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Chicago.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews had a goal and an assist and Chicago used a three-goal second period to beat Nashville for a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference first-round series.

Marian Hossa had two assists and Scott Darling made 35 saves to help Chicago win for the 20th time in its last 24 postseason home games. Brandon Saad, Brent Seabrook and Andrew Desjardins also scored in an impressive response by the Blackhawks after Friday night's 6-2 loss in Nashville.

Darling, a native of the Chicago suburb of Lemont, made his first postseason start after Corey Crawford was ineffective in the first two games of the series. The rookie also replaced Crawford in Game 1 and made 42 saves as the Blackhawks rallied for a 4-3 victory in double overtime. Mike Ribeiro and Mattias Ekholm scored for Nashville, and Pekka Rinne had 26 saves.

Game 4 is Tuesday night in Chicago.

ISLANDERS 2, CAPITALS 1

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — New York captain John Tavares scored 15 seconds into overtime to give the Islanders a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Sunday in Game 3 of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Nikolay Kulemin's initial shot was stopped by Braden Holtby, who then tried to direct the rebound into the right corner. The puck went to Tavares, who shoveled it in before Holtby could cover the right post.

The goal gave New York a 2-1 series lead.

Kyle Okposo also scored for the Islanders, and Jaroslav Halak made 24 saves. Washington tied it on Nicklas Backstrom's goal with 6:06 remaining in the third. Holtby stopped 40 shots and showed no effects of an illness that forced him to miss Game 2.

Game 4 is Tuesday night on Long Island.

CANADIENS 2, SENATORS 1, OT

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Dale Weise scored the tying goal late in the third period and then won it 8:47 into overtime, leading Montreal to a victory in the

first-round playoff series. Montreal has a chance to complete a four-game sweep Wednesday, with Game 4 in Ottawa.

Weise skated in on the left side and beat Craig Anderson with a shot inside the near post. Many of the Senators fans in the stands urged officials to call for a hand pass by Brandon Prust on the play, but the goal stood — and the Canadiens have a commanding lead.

Weise sent the game to overtime with his goal with 5:47 remaining in the third. Torrey Mitchell assisted on both goals, and Carey Price made 33 saves. Clarke MacArthur opened the scoring for the Senators at 11:28 of the first period.

FLAMES 4, CANUCKS 2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — TJ Brodie had a goal and an assist as Calgary beat Vancouver to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Sam Bennett scored his first NHL goal, and Brandon Bollig and Sean Monahan also had goals for the Flames, who hosted a playoff game for the first time since April 2009. Game 4 is

also at Calgary on Tuesday night.

Shawn Matthias and Jannik Hansen had goals for the

Canucks.

Calgary's Jonas Hiller and Vancouver's Eddie Lack each stopped 23 shots. □



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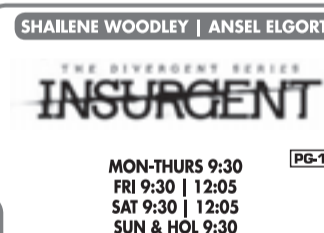
TINA FEY
Disney Nature Monkey Kingdom
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30
FRI 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30



KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10



XAVIER ATKINS | MARK LEWIS JONES
CHILD 44
MON-THURS 6:05 | 9:00
FRI 6:05 | 9:00
SAT 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00



SHAILENE WOODLEY | ANSEL ELGORT
THE DIVERGENT SERIES INSURGENT
MON-THURS 9:30
FRI 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 9:30



VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER
FURIOUS 7
ON TWO SCREENS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:15
FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30

WILL FERRELL | KEVIN HART
GET HARD
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35



JIM PARSONS | RIHANNA
HOME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

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Serena Williams has a solution to liven up Fed Cup

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

BRINDISI, Italy (AP) — Seeing Serena Williams play three matches over two days in Fed Cup was a rare treat over the weekend.

After all, the top-ranked player mostly limits her appearances in the team competition to her needs for Olympic qualification.

If Fed Cup were to move away from its annual format, however, Williams might compete more consistently.

"Ideally it would be great if it was every two years, just because I want to support it all the time and I don't get to support it as much as I can because we play and train 40-45 weeks out of the year," Williams said during a playoff loss to Italy. "So it's kind of hard to continue to do that.

Especially if you want to support your country. You feel so bad when you can't."

Switching to a biannual format is one of the options that the International Tennis Federation is considering for Fed Cup and Davis Cup, which also attracts top players like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and



Serena Williams of United States returns the ball to Italy's Sara Errani during a Fed Cup World Group playoff tennis match in Brindisi, Italy, Sunday, April 19, 2015.

Associated Press

Novak Djokovic only sporadically.

Other options include reverting to the Fed Cup's original formula of playing over one week in a different venue every other year with 16 teams — perhaps alongside the Davis Cup, meaning men and women playing in one location — which could create more of a Ryder Cup-type following.

"After a certain time you have to re-market things," Williams told The Associated Press. "I think the Fed Cup is doing great, Davis Cup obviously does great, but it's always fun to try to re-market it and just sell it to a different crowd."

ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti has said that neutral venues are strongly being considered for Davis Cup finals, to allow more ad-

vance planning and organization.

But countries like Italy, where there is a strong following for both Davis Cup and Fed Cup, are opposed to any major changes.

All 4,000 seats were sold for both sessions of the Italy-U.S. playoff, and the atmosphere was electric.

"A player can't make the rules according to what interests them," said Corrado

Barazzutti, Italy's Davis Cup and Fed Cup captain. "What's next, we'll turn all the traffic lights from red to green?"

Italian Tennis Federation president Angelo Binaghi added that the ITF events are needed annually to combat the power of the ATP and WTA tours.

"This is the only sport in the world where the players' associations rule," Binaghi said. "It should be the international federation in control, like in every other sport."

One thing the Americans and Italians agree on is that the Fed Cup's elite World Group should be expanded from eight to 16 teams.

"There's no way this should be a playoff to decide which team is relegated," Binaghi said. "But everything else is fine as is."

United States Tennis Association CEO and president Katrina Adams sits on the ITF's Davis Cup committee. "For three years there's been talk about doing something different or looking into other formats," Adams said. "Nothing has been really discussed for finality in any way." □

Kenseth-Bristol

Continued from Page 17

The start was delayed nearly 90 minutes because of rain and the race was stopped three more times, including one delay that lasted almost four hours.

The final stoppage came when the race had already surpassed the scheduled 500 laps, but a quick rain shower had stalled NASCAR's attempt to race to the checkered flag following an accident with eight laps remaining. So, NASCAR parked the cars on pit road and sent out its dryers to quickly try to give it one more shot.

Kenseth, the leader, was fine with NASCAR's decision because he was so confident in his Toyota.

"I've got to be honest with you, at least 90 percent of the time or more, I'd be all about, 'Man, call that

thing,' because anything can go wrong," he said. "I felt pretty good about where we were. I felt like unless I really, really messed it up, I was going to be clear getting into (Turn) 1. I felt like our car was good enough to hold on for two laps."

He did have a two-lap overtime sprint to the finish and Kenseth, the pole-sitter, got a terrific jump on the restart. He wasn't challenged in part because Gordon had a poor restart. Johnson slid past Gordon to take second place, and Gordon finished third.

The race had a series of hiccups unrelated to the rain stoppages: Austin Dillon ran out of gas while running third because of the lengthy final caution, Denny Hamlin didn't get back in his car after the first rain break because of a kink in his neck, and the two Team Penske drivers



Driver Kurt Busch (41) spins during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Bristol, Tenn.

Associated Press

wrecked each other just 20 laps after the start.

Carl Edwards and Kurt Busch were in contention until they wrecked following a restart eight laps from the scheduled finish, and Busch put together his strong run with an interim crew chief because Tony Gibson couldn't leave his motorhome due to pain from a kidney stone.

Kyle Larson, while leading, had a miscue with a pair of cars a lap down and the chaos it created sent Landon Cassill hard into the wall. "Heck, that's Bristol, isn't it?" said Gordon. "I'm sure I've had wackier nights and days at Bristol than this."

Hamlin, meanwhile, said he felt something strain in his neck 12 laps into the race.

The race was stopped for rain on Lap 22, and Hamlin went to his motorhome to see if he could get his neck to feel better. Instead, it stiffened and he was hardly able to turn his head when NASCAR summoned drivers back to their cars.

"I can't move my head or neck like I need to, and I'm not doing this team any justice if I go out there like this," Hamlin told The Associated Press from the garage. "I have no idea what happened."

I think it's just a pull, something where you jerk your head around and you feel a pain. Almost like you slept on it wrong."

Because Hamlin won last month at Martinsville, he's already earned a spot in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship and didn't see the point in getting back into his No. 11 if he wasn't going to be competitive. □

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Google shaking up search recommendations on smartphones

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google is about to change the way its influential search engine recommends websites on smartphones in a shift that's expected to sway where millions of people shop, eat and find information.

The revised formula, scheduled to be released Tuesday, will favor websites that Google defines as "mobile-friendly." Websites that don't fit the description will be demoted in Google's search results on smartphones while those meeting the criteria will be more likely to appear at the top of the rankings — a prized position that can translate into more visitors and money. Although Google's new formula won't affect searches on desktop and laptop computers, it will have a huge influence on how and where people spend their money, given that more people are relying on their smartphones to compare products in stores and look for restaurants. That's why Google's new rating system is being billed by some search experts as "Mobile-geddon."

"Some sites are going to be in for a big surprise when they find a drastic change in the amount of people visiting them from mobile devices," said Itai Sadan, CEO of website-building service Duda.

It's probably the most significant change that Google Inc. has ever made to its mobile search rankings, according to Matt McGee, editor-in-chief for Search Engine Land, a trade publication that follows every tweak that the company makes to its closely guarded algorithms.

Here are a few things to know about what's hap-



In this Tuesday, March 23, 2010, file photo, the Google logo is seen at the Google headquarters in Brussels.

Associated Press

pening and why Google is doing it.

MAKING MOBILE FRIENDS

To stay in Google's good graces, websites must be designed so they load quickly on mobile devices. Content must also be easily accessible by scrolling up and down — without having to also swipe to the left or right. It also helps if all buttons for making purchases or taking other actions on the website can be easily seen and touched on smaller screens.

If a website has been designed only with PC users in mind, the graphics take longer to load on smartphones and the columns of text don't all fit on the smaller screens, to the aggravation of someone trying to read it.

Google has been urging websites to cater to mobile device for years, mainly because that is where people are increasingly searching

for information.

The number of mobile searches in the U.S. is rising by about 5 percent while inquiries on PCs are dipping slightly, according to research firm comScore Inc. In the final three months of last year, 29 percent of all U.S. search requests — about 18.5 billion — were made on mobile devices, comScore estimated. Google processes the bulk of searches — two-thirds in the U.S. and even more in many other countries.

BRACING FOR CHANGE

To minimize complaints, the company disclosed its plans nearly two months ago. It also created a step-by-step guide (<http://bit.ly/1GyC0ld>) and a tool to test compliance with the new standards (<http://bit.ly/1EVi9R3>).

Google has faced uproar over past changes to its search formula. Two of the bigger revisions, done

in 2011 and 2012, focused on an attempt to weed out misleading websites and other digital rubbish. Although that goal sounds reasonable, many websites still complained that Google's changes unfairly demoted them in the rankings, making their content more difficult to find.

STILL CAUGHT OFF GUARD

While most major merchants and big companies already have websites likely to meet Google's mobile standard, the new formula threatens to hurt millions of small businesses that haven't had the money or incentive to adapt their sites for smartphones.

"A lot of small sites haven't really had a reason to be mobile friendly until now, and it's not going to be easy for them to make the changes," McGee said.

BURYING HELPFUL CONTENT

Google's search formula weighs a variety of factors

to determine the rankings of its results. One of the most important considerations has always been whether a site contains the most pertinent information sought by a search request.

But new pecking order in Google's mobile search may relegate some sites to the back pages of the search results, even if their content is more relevant to a search request than other sites that happen to be easier to access on smartphones. That will be an unfortunate consequence, but also justifiable because a person might not even bother to look at sites that take a long time to open or difficult to read on mobile devices, Gartner analyst Whit Andrews said.

"Availability is part of relevancy," Andrews said. "A lot of people aren't going to think something is relevant if they can't get it to appear on their iPhone." □

Morgan Stanley's income jumps 60% on trading boost

NEW YORK (AP) — Morgan Stanley reported a 60 percent jump in quarterly profit Monday, as revenue from trading stocks and bonds lifted the investment bank's results.

First-quarter net income rose to \$2.31 billion from \$1.45 billion a year earlier, the New York bank said. On a per-share basis, Morgan

Stanley's earnings worked out to \$1.18. Excluding a one-time tax benefit, the bank earned 89 cents per share, easily beating analysts' average forecast of 78 cents, according to the data provider FactSet.

Revenue for the quarter rose to \$9.91 billion from \$9 billion the year before. That's much better than

the \$9.19 billion analysts had expected, according to the data provider FactSet. The news sent Morgan Stanley's stock up 45 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$37.23. The bank's shares have surged 19 percent over the past year, outperforming the broader market. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 12 percent

over the same stretch.

The biggest boost to the bank's revenues came from trading. Morgan Stanley said sales and trading of stocks brought in \$2.29 billion, up 31 percent over the same quarter of last year. Trading of bonds, currencies and commodities rose 16 percent to \$2 billion. It was a similar story

for other banks in the first quarter, which often benefit from swings in financial markets.

In the years after the financial crisis, Morgan Stanley has shifted from relying on trading bonds and currencies toward more stable businesses, such as managing money for wealthy clients. □

Wall Street rebounds from Friday's slump; Hasbro jumps



Trader Jeffrey Vazquez works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, April 20, 2015. U.S. stocks closed higher as more big companies turned in healthy financial results for the first quarter of the year. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market bounced back from a big loss on Friday after getting a boost from some good first-quarter earnings reports.

Toy maker Hasbro reported an unexpected gain in sales on the back of strong

demand for its Transformer, Nerf and Marvel toys. Oil and gas services company Halliburton and investment bank Morgan Stanley also reported results that were better than analysts were expecting.

Stocks were recovering from a big slump on Friday when worries about the

unresolved Greek debt crisis and some disappointing earnings reports rattled financial markets.

This week is one of the busiest for first-quarter earnings with 147 companies, close to one-third of those in the S&P 500, scheduled to report their results. Investors are already expecting

weak earnings because a surge in the dollar is hurting overseas sales. A big drop in oil prices is also hitting energy companies.

The strong earnings Monday "are setting a good trend to start the week," said David Lyon, a global investment specialist at JPMorgan Private Bank. "Earnings are coming in better than the weakened expectations."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 19.22 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,100.40. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 208.63 points, or 1.2 percent, to 18,034.93. The Nasdaq composite climbed 62.79 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,994.60.

Currently, analysts are predicting earnings per share will slide by an average of 2.6 percent for S&P 500 companies in the first quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ data. If that forecast holds, it will mark the first period that earnings have contracted since the third quarter of 2009, when the U.S. was emerging from the Great Recession.

On Monday, though, the reports were better than forecast.

Hasbro was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500 index after reporting better-than-expected earnings. The company is battling a shift toward video gaming, but unexpectedly reported rising revenue for the first quarter. The stock jumped \$8.27, or 13 percent, to \$74.16.

Halliburton was another company to gain after posting earnings that beat expectations.

The company reported a \$643 million loss for the first quarter, but after asset write-offs, severance costs and other items had been accounted for, the company logged earnings per share of 49 cents. Halliburton's stock rose 96 cents, or 2 percent, to \$47.85.

Stocks have moved between big upswings and losses for much of the year, and the S&P 500 has gained only 2 percent so far in 2015.

Not all investors are positive on the near-term outlook for stocks. □

Groupon selling controlling stake in Ticket Monster

CHICAGO (AP) — Online daily deal service Groupon is selling its controlling stake in Ticket Monster to a partnership formed by KKR and Anchor Equity Partners for \$360 million.

Groupon purchased Ticket Monster, a South Korean online ticket seller, in January 2014 from LivingSocial Inc. in a \$260 million cash-and-stock transaction.

As part of the deal with KKR and Anchor Equity,

Groupon will receive \$285 million in cash, while Ticket Monster will get the remaining amount. Groupon said it plans to use proceeds from the sale of the 46 percent stake for general corporate purposes and stock buybacks.

"As the Korean market developed, it became obvious that Ticket Monster would benefit from additional resources and local expertise in its drive to be

the leading social commerce company in Korea," Groupon CEO Eric Lefkofsky said in a statement.

Anchor Equity is based in Hong Kong. KKR has offices in the U.S. and abroad, including Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing and Singapore.

Groupon said Monday that it will still have a 41 percent stake in Ticket Monster after the transaction is complete.

The deal is targeted to close in the second quarter.

Groupon said that due to the Ticket Monster transaction — and changes in foreign currency exchange rates — it now foresees first-quarter adjusted earnings between a penny and 3 cents per share and revenue in a range of \$720 million to \$770 million. Its prior outlook was for adjusted earnings between

breakeven and two cents per share and revenue in a range of \$790 million to \$840 million.

Analysts polled by FactSet expect earnings of a penny per share on revenue of \$822.4 million.

In addition, Groupon Inc. said that its board has approved a new \$300 million stock buyback. The repurchase program is subject to the closing of the Ticket Monster transaction. □

My Father's Secret



FRANK BRUNI
© 2015 New York Times

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - Dad had a twinkle in his eye.

"Wait until you see this trick," he told me. "This secret. You're guaranteed to make money. I'll show you when we sit down at a table."

A blackjack table, he meant. Dad loves blackjack, especially with my three siblings and me, and we'll circle a casino floor for an hour just to find a dealer with enough empty seats for three or four or all five of us, so that we can have our own little cabal.

He inducted us into the game decades ago, in Vegas, and we continued to play over the years, because it was another excuse and another way to spend time together: our ritual, our refuge.

Before last weekend, we hadn't played in a long while. But for his 80th birthday, he got to choose the agenda for a weekend out of town. He picked blackjack. And he picked Atlantic City, because it was closer than Vegas and good enough.

It's funny how modest his desires can be, given what a grand life he's lived. He's the American dream incarnate, all pluck and luck and ferociously hard work and sweetly savored payoff.

He grew up outside New York City, the oldest child of relatively poor immigrants from southern Italy. English was his second language.

He managed to be elected president of his high school over the blond quarterback from the right side of the tracks, then won a full scholarship to college. But first he had to persuade his parents that four years in New Hampshire at a place called Dartmouth could be as beneficial as an apprenticeship in a trade.

He married a grade-school sweetheart and stayed married to her through business school, a sequence of better jobs and a succession of bigger homes until she died at 61, just months shy of his retirement and of what were supposed to be their golden years. He eventually learned how to work the dishwasher, but never how to go more

than a few minutes without pining for her.

It's the phase of his life since my mother that I find most compelling, because it's a tribute to what people are capable of on the inside, not the outside.

They can open up, soften up and step up. When Mom was around, my father's assigned role in the family was as the stern disciplinarian - he played the warden, so that Mom could be our friend - and he was never forced to notice our hurts or attend to them, to provide succor and counsel in matters of the heart.

Then he had to, because he was the only parent left. He held my sister's hand through her divorce. He made sure to tell me and my partner that our place in the family was the same as any other couple's. And his nine grandchildren, only two of whom my mother lived to meet, came to know him as their most fervent and forgiving cheerleader, ever vigilant, ever indulgent. Their birthdays are the sturdiest part of his memory. He never fails to send a gift.

A generous man from the start, he has somehow grown even more generous still, not just with items of measurable value but with those of immeasurable worth, like his time. His gestures. His emotions.

He has figured out what makes him happiest, and it's doing the little bit that he can to nudge the people he loves toward their own contentment. It's letting us know how much he wants us to get there. It's being obvious about all of that and, in the process, bringing a smile to our lips, a twinkle to our eyes.

Here's what happened, on this milestone birthday of his, when we finally found the right blackjack table and fanned out around him and it was time for his trick:

He asked each of us - his kids, our life mates - to stretch out a hand. And into every palm he pressed two crisp hundred-dollar bills, so that our initial bets would be on him and we would start out ahead of the game.

"See?" he said. "You're already a winner."

That was it - his secret for blackjack, which is really his secret for life, and has nothing, obviously, to do with the money, which we're blessed enough not to need too keenly and he's blessed enough not to miss too badly.

It has to do with his eagerness, in this late stage of life, to make sure that we understand our primacy in his thoughts and his jubilation in our presence. It has to do with his expansiveness.

I pray I learn from his secret. I hope to steal it. □

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MISSILES TO IRAN

The Lost Language of Privacy



DAVID BROOKS
© 2015 New York Times

Like a lot of people, I've come to believe that it would be a good idea to put body-mounted cameras on police officers. I now believe this for several reasons.

First, there have been too many cases in which police officers have abused their authority and then covered it up. Second, it seems probable that cops would be less likely to abuse their authority if they were being tracked. Third, human memory is an unreliable faculty. We might be able to reduce the number of wrongful convictions and acquittals if we have cameras recording more events.

I've come to this conclusion, but I haven't come to it happily. And, as the debate over cop-cams has unfolded, I've been surprised by how many people don't see the downside to this policy. Most people don't even seem to recognize the damage these cameras will do both to police-civilian relations and to privacy. As the debate has unfolded, it's become clear that more and more people have lost even the language of privacy and an understanding of why privacy is important.

Let's start with the basics. Privacy is important to the development of full individuals because there has to be an interior

zone within each person that other people don't see. There has to be a zone where half-formed thoughts and delicate emotions can grow and evolve, without being exposed to the harsh glare of public judgment. There has to be a place where you can be free to develop ideas and convictions away from the pressure to conform. There has to be a spot where you are only yourself and can define yourself.

Privacy is important to families and friendships because there has to be a zone where you can be fully known. There has to be a private space where you can share your doubts and secrets and expose your weaknesses with the expectation that you will still be loved and forgiven and supported.

Privacy is important for communities because there has to be a space where people with common affiliations can develop bonds of affection and trust. There has to be a boundary between us and them. Within that boundary, you look out for each other; you rally to support each other; you cut each other some slack; you share fierce common loyalties.

All these concentric circles of privacy depend on some level of shrouding. They depend on some level of secrecy and awareness of the distinction between the inner privileged space and the outer exposed space. They depend on the understanding that what happens between us stays between us.

Cop-cams chip away at that. The cameras will undermine communal bonds. Putting a camera on someone is a sign that you don't trust him or that he doesn't trust you. When a police officer is wearing a camera, the contact between an officer and a civilian is less likely to be like intimate friendship and more likely to be oppositional and transactional. Putting a camera on an officer

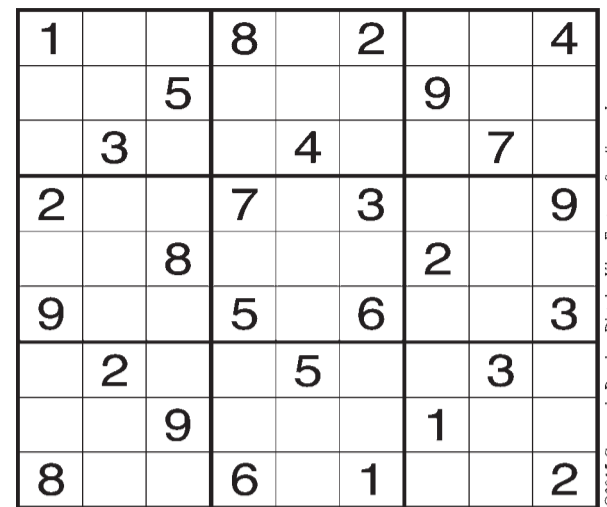
means she is less likely to cut you some slack, less likely to not write that ticket, or to bend the regulations a little as a sign of mutual care.

Putting a camera on the police officer means that authority resides less in the wisdom and integrity of the officer and more in the videotape. During a trial, if a crime isn't captured on the tape, it will be presumed to never have happened.

Cop-cams will insult families. It's worth pointing out that less than 20 percent of police calls involve felonies, and less than 1 percent of police-citizen contacts involve police use of force. Most of the time cops are mediating disputes, helping those in distress, dealing with the mentally ill or going into some home where someone is having a meltdown. When a police officer comes into your home wearing a camera, he's trampling on the privacy that makes a home a home. He's recording people on what could be the worst day of their lives and inhibiting their ability to lean on the officer for care and support. Cop-cams insult individual dignity because the embarrassing things recorded by them will inevitably get swapped around. The videos of the naked crime victim, the berserk drunk, the screaming maniac will inevitably get posted online - as they are already. With each leak, culture gets a little coarser. The rules designed to keep the videos out of public view will inevitably be eroded and bent.

So, yes, on balance, cop-cams are a good idea. But, as a journalist, I can tell you that when I put a notebook or a camera between me and my subjects, I am creating distance between me and them. Cop-cams strike a blow for truth, but they strike a blow against relationships. Society will be more open and transparent but less humane and trusting. □

Conceptis Sudoku



4/21

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	9	8	6	4	3	1	7	5
	4	5	7	1	2	8	3	6	9
	6	1	3	7	5	9	2	4	8
	1	8	5	4	6	2	9	3	7
	7	6	2	9	3	1	8	5	4
	3	4	9	5	8	7	6	2	1
	8	7	6	2	9	5	4	1	3
	9	2	1	3	7	4	5	8	6
5	3	4	8	1	6	7	9	2	

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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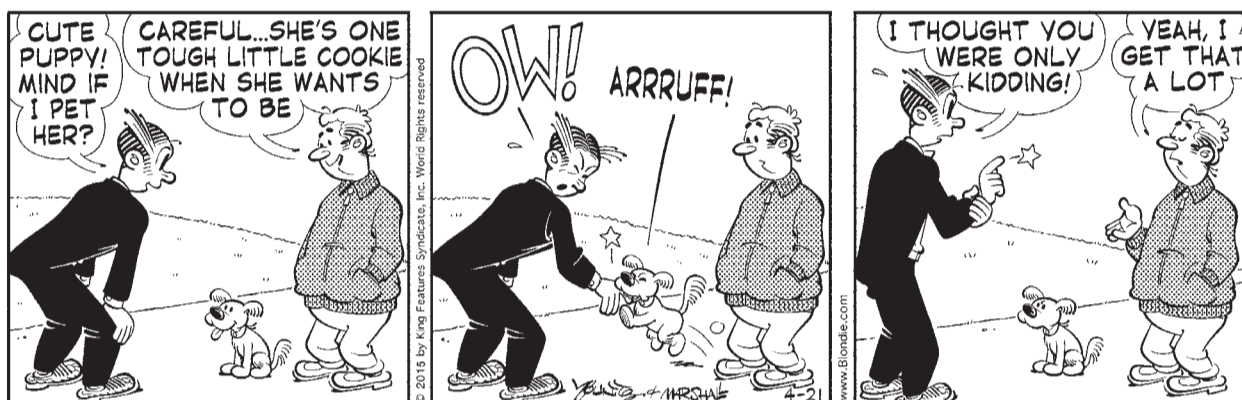
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3	Out of ___; misbehaving	G R O W	D I A N A	A G E S
4	Helps	A U R A	E N V O Y	N O S E
5	Island greeting	S L A Y	S T E R E O	T Y P E
6	GPS screen diagrams	P E N	A P E S	P L A N K
7	Actor Vigoda	G A B O R	B E E	
8	Calm	G O U L E T	H O R R I D	
9	Street talk	O P T E D	T R A L A	N O D
10	Item on a seafood platter	B I A S	W O U L D	S H O E
11	Drifter	I N N	M E R G E	C H U R N
12	Highest cards	E S C A P E	C L U M S Y	
13	Man or boy	A N T	G H A N A	
21	Anthem writer Francis Scott	S P I R O	F L E D	N A B
23	Relinquished	L A C E R A T I O N	M I L E	
		O N E S	C A N O E	A T M S
		T E D S	E N E M Y	C Y S T

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Blondie



LOOK, MOM BOUGHT A SLEEP NUMBER BED. LET'S TRY IT.

WHAT NUMBER IS THAT?

666

4/21
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WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

A PARTY INVITATION.

WHAT IS "R.S.V.P."?

IT'S FRENCH.

IT TRANSLATES TO "WARN US IF HAMMIE IS COMING."

I'M A MULTINATIONAL PEST.

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OR
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For 55 rental units: 'Poor Door' building draws 88,000 applicants

MIREYA NAVARRO
© 2015 New York Times
NEW YORK - The glassy new tower in New York City that attracted an outcry for featuring one entrance for condominium owners and another one for low-income tenants has drawn more than 88,000 applications for the 55 affordable rental units, the developer said.

"I guess people like it," said Gary Barnett, founder and president of Extell Development Co. "It shows that there's a tremendous demand for high-quality affordable housing in beautiful neighborhoods."

The separate entrances at the building, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, drew heavy criticism last year from some officials and affordable-housing advocates who saw the configuration as representing unequal treatment. The arrangement, which spawned the catchphrase "poor door," puts the affordable apartments in a segment attached to the condo building and is allowed under zoning rules that the administration of Mayor Bill de Blasio says it is now working to change.

Despite the controversy, it is not surprising that people are knocking down the poor door to get in. Housing lotteries, which the city uses to distribute subsidized apartments in new buildings, have been drawing record numbers after the

system began allowing online applications in 2013 and as the rental market has gotten tighter. The lotteries are expected to multiply after de Blasio's pledge to produce 80,000 new affordable units over

Living project in Long Island City in Queens has drawn the most applications so far, more than 92,000 for 924 below-market-rate apartments in a lottery that closed last year.

The units at Extell's building



A building that features one entrance for condominium owners and another for low-income tenants in the Upper West Side neighborhood of New York. The "poor door" building has drawn more than 88,000 applications for the 55 affordable rental units, the has developer said.

(Victor J. Blue/The New York Times)

10 years. Already this year, 10 lotteries have been held for 698 units that received about 486,000 applications. Barnett said 88,200 applications had been received by early Monday. Officials with the NYC Housing Partnership, the nonprofit that will screen applicants for the developer, said that applications could reach 90,000 by the time the submission period ends at 11:59 p.m. Monday. The total will not be known until mailed applications, which must be postmarked by Monday, are counted.

City housing officials said that the Hunters Point South

are eligible to households with incomes between \$30,240 and \$50,340, with rents listed at \$1,082 for a two-bedroom, \$895 for a one-bedroom and \$833 for a studio in a prime location by the Hudson River. Barnett argued that the response shows that the poor door issue is a "made-up controversy."

"The most important thing is to provide affordable housing," he said. "It's what people really want."

Affordable housing advocates are divided on the issue, with some saying that the focus should be on building more homes rather than where to enter them. □

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24/7

Kids of Cold War crocs going to Cuba on conservation mission

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Cuba's efforts to sustain the critically endangered Cuban crocodile are getting a boost from Sweden, home to a pair of reptiles that Fidel Castro gave to a Soviet cosmonaut four decades ago.

A Stockholm zoo on Sunday is sending 10 of the couple's children to Cuba, where they will be placed in quarantine and eventually released into the Zapata Swamp, said Jonas Wahlstrom, the zookeeper who raised them.

"It's the dream of any zoo director to be part of releasing animals into the wild," said Wahlstrom, 62, clutching one of the stout-legged youngsters outside its enclosure at the Skansen aquarium and zoo in Stockholm. The 10 crocodiles each are about 1 ½ years old and a meter (yard) long.

The Cuban crocodile, once found across the Caribbean, is restricted today to two swamps in Cuba, where it is threatened by interbreeding with American crocodiles, habitat loss and illegal hunting. Wahlstrom said he received his original couple during a 1981 trip to Moscow. They had ended up in the Soviet capital after Castro gave them to cosmonaut Vladimir Shatalov in the 1970s as a token of



Two adult Cuban crocodiles rest inside their enclosure at the Skansen zoo and aquarium in Stockholm, Wednesday April 15, 2015. Zoo director Jonas Wahlstrom says they were originally given as a gift from Fidel Castro to a Soviet cosmonaut four decades ago.

Associated Press

friendship between the communist nations.

"He (Shatalov) brought them back to Moscow and he had them in his flat until his wife said: 'No more!' And then he had to give them to the zoo in Moscow," Wahlstrom told The Associated Press.

But the zoo officials didn't have a good space for the aquatic reptiles so they asked Wahlstrom if he could take them to Sweden.

"I had them as my hand luggage back from Moscow," Wahlstrom said.

Zoo officials in Moscow confirmed the background of the crocodiles and their handover to Wahlstrom.

Later named Hillary and Castro — in a nod to international politics — the two crocodiles have become a star attraction at Wahlstrom's zoo, where they have been breeding since 1984. Wahlstrom said he's sent hatchlings to zoos worldwide, but this is the first time he's given any to Cuba for introduction into the wild. Cuba's representative to Sweden welcomed the move.

"We need this type of crocodiles," Cuban Ambassador Francisco Florentino said as he inspected the animals before their departure Sunday.

With only about 4,000 animals remaining in the wild, the Cuban crocodile, or *Crocodylus rhombifer*, is red-listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The population is restricted to Cuba's Zapata Swamp and the Isle of Youth.

This would be the first time that Cuban crocodiles raised abroad are intro-

duced into the wild in Cuba, according to Natalia Rossi of the Wildlife Conservation Society. She's been involved in other efforts to protect crocodiles in the Caribbean island nation but not the Swedish project. However, the crocodiles first would be genetically screened to ensure that they come from a pure breed, Rossi said. The Cuban crocodile can be distinguished from its American cousin by the way it walks and its characteristic bony ridge behind the eyes. □

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David Baldacci's latest thriller is engaging

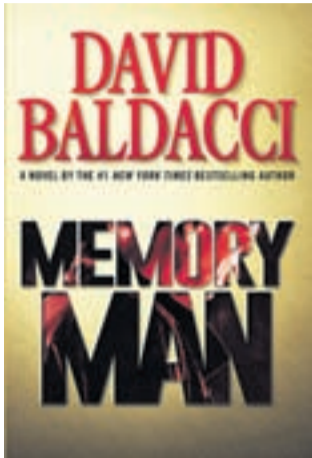
JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

David Baldacci has written another thriller that will have readers engaged from the first page.

Amos Decker, a stellar athlete who made it to the NFL, experienced a helmet-to-helmet collision on his first play that changed his life forever. From that moment, Decker's brain shifted and he lost the ability to forget. The entire world became a myriad of colors and memories that he could easily access. With his new abilities, he's the perfect candidate to become a police detective. He can visit a crime scene once and walk through it over and over again in his mind, and he can remember verbatim testimony by a witness or suspect.

His life is destroyed when he arrives home and finds that his wife, young daughter and brother-in-law have been murdered. He can never forget the scene, and with no witnesses and little evidence, he sinks into despair. Decker ends up leaving the force and becomes homeless. He works as a private detective but



This book cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "Memory Man," by David Baldacci.

Associated Press

has few clients, and he's embarrassed by his appearance and how low he has fallen.

Three years later, a man walks into a police station and declares that he's responsible for the murders. Decker, who has never forgotten that day or any of the evidence, realizes the man's confession is full of holes.

Baldacci is a master storyteller, and although the payoff might be a bit of a stretch, "Memory Man" works because Amos Decker is an amazing character. □

Julio Iglesias to receive honorary degree from Berklee

BOSTON (AP) — Julio Iglesias and three other prominent music industry figures will receive honorary degrees from Boston's Berklee College of Music at its commencement next month.

Sony Music Entertainment CEO Doug Morris, drummer Harvey Mason and Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and producer Dee Dee Bridgewater will also receive honorary doctorates at the ceremony on May 9. □



In this May 12, 2014 file photo, Latin pop icon Julio Iglesias poses for photographers at a news conference where he was named the 'Most Successful Latin Artist of All Time', at a central London venue.

Associated Press



In this Feb. 5, 2015 file photo, Willie Nelson performs at the 17th Annual GRAMMY Foundation Legacy Concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Willie Nelson becomes latest celebrity in marijuana business

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Washington (AP)

— Country music star Willie Nelson announced plans Monday to roll out his own brand of marijuana, capitalizing on his association with pot and the unofficial stoner holiday, 4/20.

The move makes the 81-year-old "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die" singer the latest celebrity to jump into the marijuana marketplace.

"Willie's Reserve" will be grown and sold in Colorado and Washington, where recreational pot is legal. Nelson said in a statement that he's "looking forward to working with the best growers in Colorado and Washington to make sure our product is the best on the market."

Nelson joins other famous pot personalities, including rapper Snoop Dogg, who endorses vaporizing products; singer Melissa Etheridge, developing marijuana-infused wine; and reality TV star and self-help

guru Bethenny Frankel, who is working on a strain of Skinnygirl weed that wouldn't leave users with the munchies.

"Like other industries, branding and creative marketing is a big part of supporting legal cannabis products," said Vicki Christophersen, director of the Washington CannaBusiness Association.

Christophersen said these connections continue a long tradition of celebrities endorsing the use of marijuana — even decades before it became legal for adult use.

Nelson, who was not available for comment Monday, is among those with well-established connections to cannabis. He's been a decriminalization advocate and has been busted for pot possession several times. He also appeared in the stoner comedy "Half Baked."

Washington and Colorado made pot legal for adult use in 2012. Oregon, Alaska and the District of Colum-

bia also have removed legal restrictions, and more states are expected to vote on legalization next year. The moves have created marketing opportunities, but links to celebrity smokers aren't always considered a positive.

This year, the National Cannabis Industry Association decided to drop actor Tommy Chong — co-star of the "Cheech and Chong" comedy team — as it prepared to lobby Congress for pot-friendly regulations. The group wanted to move past the stoner stereotypes they say Chong represents in favor of positioning pot as similar to fine wine.

Others see it differently, however.

Chong has an endorsement deal with Marisol Therapeutics, a pot shop in Pueblo, Colorado, that sells a strain in his name.

Store owner Mike Stetler called Chong marijuana's equivalent of the Marlboro Man, and when it comes to pot pitchmen, he asked, "Who better?" □

Iconic Israeli actor Chaim Topol reflects on long career

ARON HELLER

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — He was Tevye the milkman of “Fiddler on the Roof” fame, James Bond’s wingman in “For Your Eyes Only” and a nutty professor in the 1980’s cult classic “Flash Gordon.” Long before Israelis like supermodel Bar Refaeli and Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot made their names internationally, Chaim Topol was winning Golden Globe awards as his country’s most famous ambassador to Hollywood. Now, nearly 80 and still involved in theater, he is being awarded the Jewish state’s most prestigious honor this week — the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement.

In an era when many Israeli entertainers try to make it big in the English-speaking world — and even the most minor global achievements of Israelis in the arts are championed as a source of national pride — it is often forgotten that a generation ago one of their own was so successful that he came to be known by a single name: Topol. Still living in the Tel Aviv childhood home of his wife of 60 years, Topol is tak-



In this Wednesday, April 8, 2015 photo, Israeli actor Chaim Topol, speaks during an interview, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

ing his latest recognition in stride, just as he has the various highlights of his storied career.

“I wasn’t brought up in Hollywood. I was brought up in a kibbutz here and I started to work at the age of 14 in a printing house,” he said, seated in a living room adorned with paintings, sculptures and Judaica. “Obviously, when you are successful in a film and the money flows, yes, obviously, it is very nice. But to tell

you that is the most important thing, I am not sure.”

Topol got his start in acting in a theatrical troupe in the Israeli army in the 1950s, where he met his future wife Galia. His first major breakthrough was the lead role in the groundbreaking 1964 Israeli film Sallah Shabati, about the hardships of Middle Eastern immigrants to Israel. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and earned

Topol his first Golden Globe Award.

Two years later, he made his English-language film debut alongside Kirk Douglas in “Cast a Giant Shadow.” But the role of his life arrived in the long-running musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” in which he played a Jewish father trying to maintain his people’s cultural traditions amid tumult in their Russian shtetl.

After years of playing Tevye on stage in London and on

Broadway, he scored the lead role in the 1971 Norman Jewison-directed film version, winning the Golden Globe award for lead actor and being nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award. He lost out to Gene Hackman in “The French Connection.”

He estimates the film has been seen by over a billion people and it sealed Topol’s status as an international film celebrity and Jewish symbol for his renditions of such hits as “If I Were a Rich Man.” All told, he said he has played the part more than 3,500 times on stage, most recently in 2009. He still fields requests to play it.

Topol appeared in more than 30 movies, including the lead in “Galileo,” Dr. Hans Zarkov in “Flash Gordon” and starring alongside Roger Moore as 007’s foil-turned-ally Milos Columbo in “For Your Eyes Only.” But the role that defined his career was Tevye, and Topol has no problem with that.

“How many people are known for one part? How many people in my profession are known worldwide? So I am not complaining,” he said. □

Associated Press

Tom Stoppard calls it a ‘frightening time’ for free speech

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Playwright Tom Stoppard said he will accept PEN’s highest award next month in New York to help put a spotlight on a “frightening time” for free expression. Stoppard is to accept the PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American chapter of the global human-rights organization of writers and editors.

“People like me are chosen, in a sense, to represent what PEN and other organizations are doing 24/7. So I can say I’m proud to represent them,” the playwright said.

Charlie Hebdo, the Parisian satirical magazine that was a target of a deadly shoot-



In this Sept. 4, 2012 file photo, British playwright Tom Stoppard poses as he arrives for the world premiere of “Anna Karenina,” in London.

Associated Press

ing in January, also will be honored. Staff member Jean-Baptiste Thoret, who barely escaped the attack that killed eight of his co-workers and four others, will receive the PEN/Toni and

James C. Goodale Freedom of Expression Courage Award.

Stoppard, who has campaigned for oppressed artists and political dissidents

in Eastern and Central Europe, said threats to free speech are worse now than ever, from radical Islam to U.S. government surveillance.

“The problem is deeper and, really, much more complicated. I think it’s quite a frightening time,” said the playwright, who scripted the Oscar-winning film “Shakespeare in Love” and has written plays including “Arcadia” and “The Real Thing.”

“You kind of stand there in your Western idea of what morality is and what amorality is and suddenly you’re not quite sure. You thought you’d always known what was which and suddenly, you’re not sure. This is the fate of thoughtful people as the century unfolds.”

In addition to the Paris at-

tack, PEN Executive Director Suzanne Nossel pointed to other moves against writers, including a gunman who opened fire on a Copenhagen cultural center in March and a South African novelist confined for comments she made in appreciation of Salman Rushdie.

“It is a climate of hair-trigger sensitivity to certain kinds of speech and a very dangerous moment for writers who are seated in the crosshairs,” said Nossel. “It is a tough moment on many fronts.”

Stoppard said he and fellow artists have lately found it difficult to tread the line between a desire for absolute right of free expression and the hope of being respectful to those with different beliefs and creeds. □



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